Local Man™

SEELEY FLEECS SIMPSON SOBREIRO

LOCAL MAN

VOLUME 1: HEARTLAND

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LOCAL MAN, VOL. 1. September 2023. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293.

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Chapter 1

BUS
STOP
BUS
STOP
BUS
STOP
SKRRT

BUS STOP
BEEP
BEEP
THAT BUS DON'T COME THROUGH HERE TOO REGULAR THESE DAYS.
BUS STOP
WHEN'S THE NEXT ONE SUPPOSED TO COME?
...DUNNO.
WELL, WHEN WAS THE LAST ONE?
THINK LIKE...
1998?
HEY...
ARE YOU CROSS-JACK?
OH... YEAH.
YEAH, I'M--
SKREEEEE

EEEEEEECH!
YEAH...
TAP
TAP
Where to?
Get points on rides & r
Ride
SKRRT
JACK... X...
XAVER?
YOU CALL FOR A DRVR?
HA HA
BECAUSE ...
IT'S... IT'S COOL.
JUST GO AHEAD AND CANCEL. I'LL CALL ANOTHER ONE.
OH, AIN'T NO OTHER ONE.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE JUST SHIT OUT OF LUCK, HUH?
FUCK CROSSJACK!

HEARTLAND

COOL.

Farmington 10

NO SERVICES

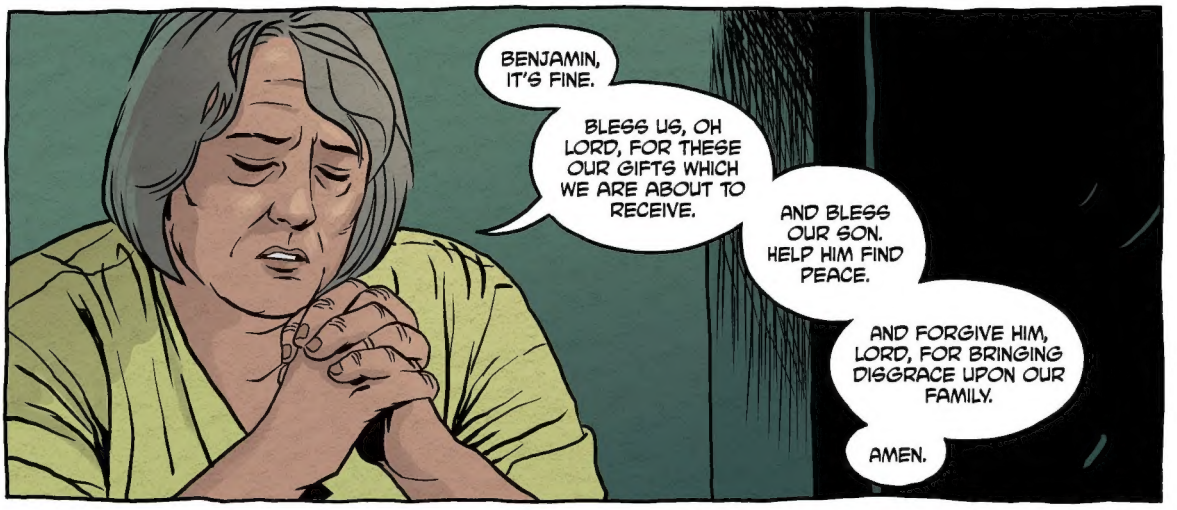
WE EXPECTED YOU EARLIER. YOUR MOM MADE SUPPER.
YEAH, I HAD THE GENJET DROP ME OUTSIDE OF TOWN. DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A SCENE.
YEAH.
FIGURED I'D JUST HOP ON THE BUS BUT--
THAT BUS DON'T RUN THERE NO MORE.
...YEAH.

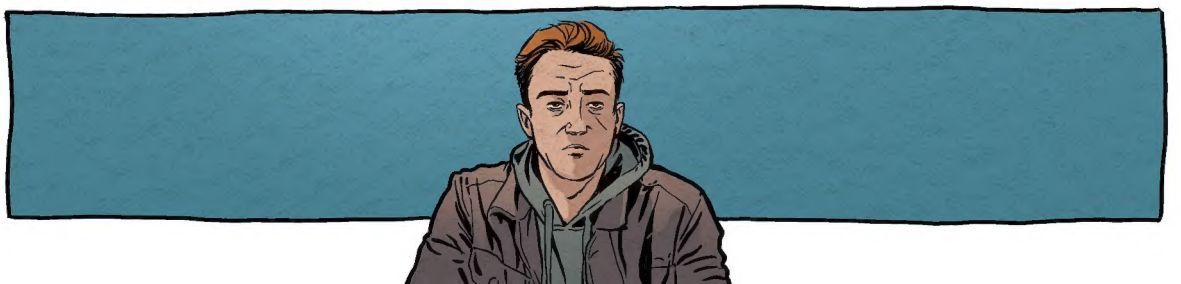
HEY MA.
YOUR SUPPER'S IN THE WARMER.
HOME COOKING!
I'M EXCITED!
UM...
DID YOU GUYS EAT ALREADY?
OF COURSE WE ATE ALREADY. IT'S 8:30 AT NIGHT.
WELL, CAN WE JUST...
DO YOU WANT TO DO LIKE A FAMILY THING?
SIT WITH ME AND CATCH UP?
SURE. FAMILY TIME.
LET'S CATCH UP.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO FOR WORK AND HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING HERE?
C'MON, I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME STAY HERE.
I PROMISE, I WON'T BE DOWN AND OUT FOR TOO--
GAH!!

PEPPER!?
JESUS CHRIST, IS THIS DOG INVINCIBLE?!
HOW OLD IS HE? WASN'T HE LIKE 14 WHEN I LEFT!?

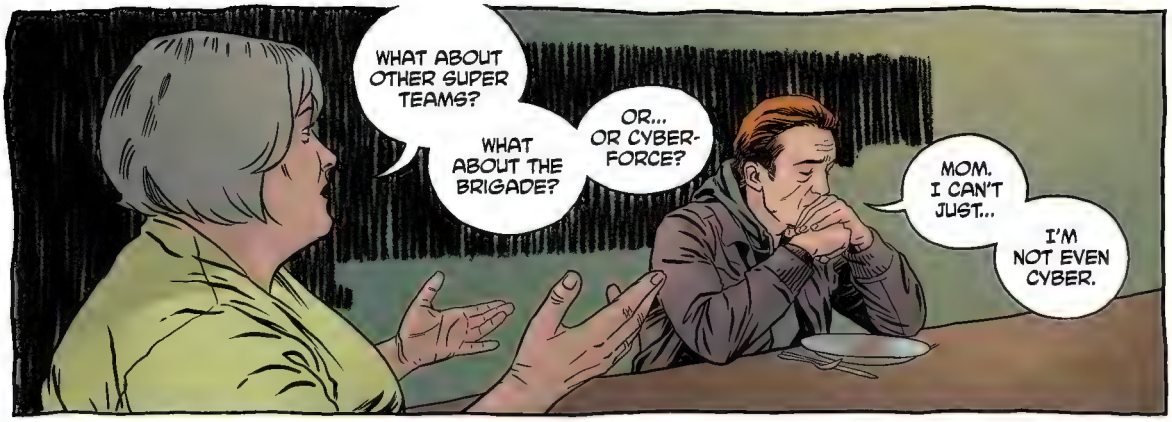
DON'T TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN FRONT OF YOUR MOTHER.
YOU CAN BLASPHEME ALL YOU WANT OUT IN THE CITY--
WE'RE NOT DOING THAT HERE.

SORRY. LOOK... I UM...
I FEEL LIKE EVERYBODY'S MAD AT ME HERE?
YOU GONNA SAY GRACE?
OH. UM. MOM, DO YOU WANT TO...
WE ALREADY ATE!

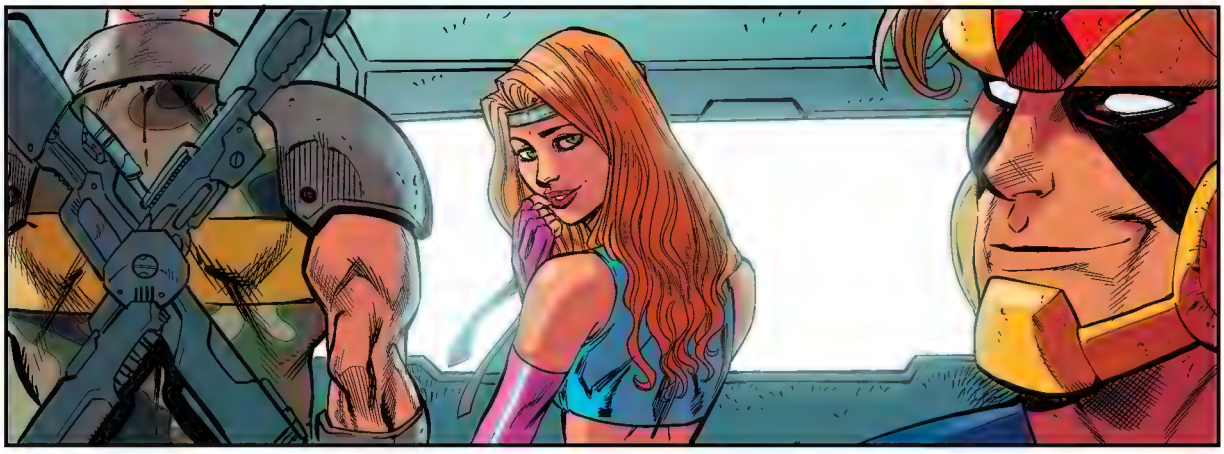

BENJAMIN, IT'S FINE.
BLESS US, OH LORD, FOR THESE OUR GIFTS WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE.
AND BLESS OUR SON. HELP HIM FIND PEACE.
AND FORGIVE HIM, LORD, FOR BRINGING DISGRACE UPON OUR FAMILY.
AMEN.



YOU...
Y'KNOW, WITH THIS INDIAN SUMMER WE'RE HAVING, DAD, I FIGURED MAYBE YOU AND I COULD HANG OUT.
MAYBE GO OUT AND DO SOME BOW-HUNTING AND RUSTLE UP SOME VENISON TO COOK UP?
SURE. BOW-HUNTING.
'COURSE, A BOW IS THE ONE WEAPON YOU WEREN'T SUPERNATURALLY PROFICIENT AT.
YOU'D HIT A FIELD MOUSE WITH A PIE TIN BEFORE YOU'D HIT A BUCK WITH A COMPOUND.
OKAY. I'M JUST TRYING TO...
HAVE YOU AT LEAST *TRIED* TO GET YOUR SUPER-JOB BACK?
DID YOU TRY APOLOGIZING TO-
MOM!
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT, PLEASE.

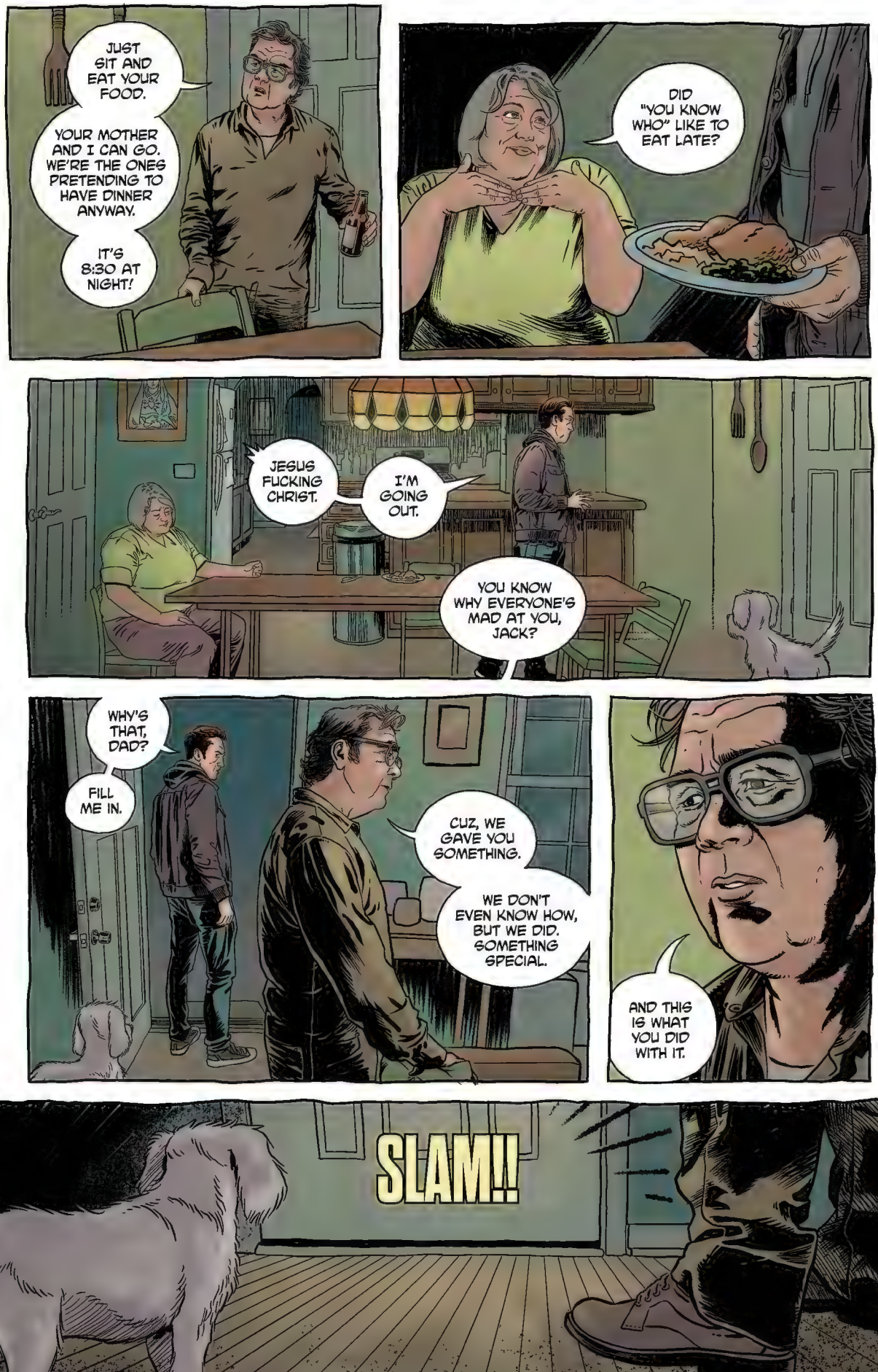

WHAT ABOUT OTHER SUPER TEAMS?
WHAT ABOUT THE BRIGADE?
OR... OR CYBER-FORCE?
MOM. I CAN'T JUST...
I'M NOT EVEN CYBER.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAN'T TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU DID.
EVERYBODY ALREADY KNOWS.
THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS.

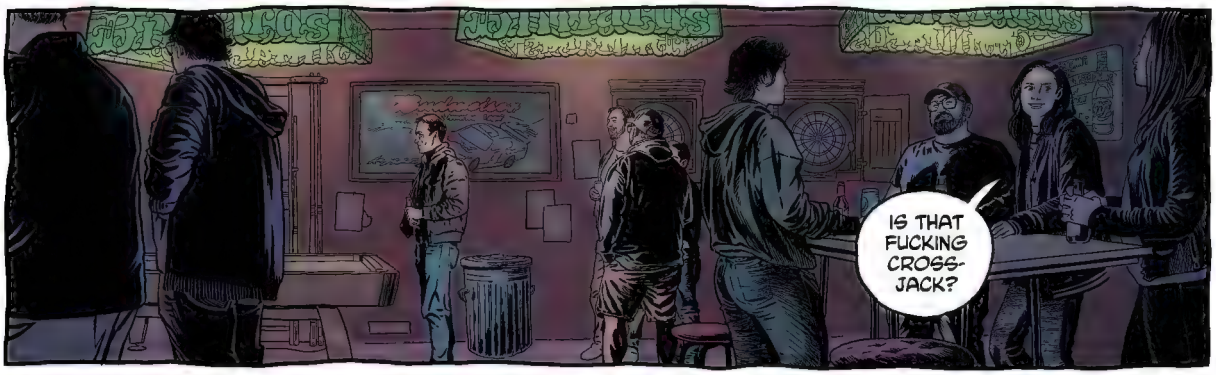


OK. THIS WAS GREAT.
I'M GONNA GO EAT IN MY ROOM.
WE MADE YOUR BEDROOM INTO MY SEWIN' ROOM.
THERE'S A BED FOR YOU IN THE CELLAR.

COOL.


JUST SIT AND EAT YOUR FOOD.
YOUR MOTHER AND I CAN GO. WE'RE THE ONES PRETENDING TO HAVE DINNER ANYWAY.
IT'S 8:30 AT NIGHT!
DID "YOU KNOW WHO" LIKE TO EAT LATE?
JESUS FUCKING CHRIST.
I'M GOING OUT.
YOU KNOW WHY EVERYONE'S MAD AT YOU, JACK?
WHY'S THAT, DAD?
FILL ME IN.
CUZ, WE GAVE YOU SOMETHING.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW, BUT WE DID. SOMETHING SPECIAL.
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU DID WITH IT.
SLAM!!

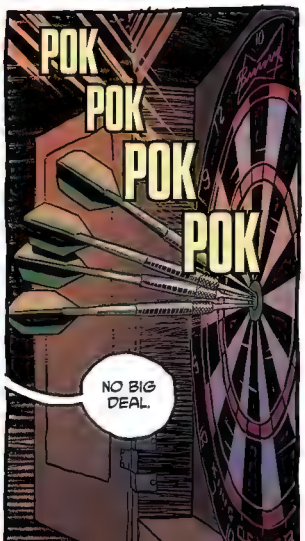
NO! I'M TELLING YOU...
SERIOUSLY, RIGHT THERE BY THE POOL TABLE...
COLDBEER
OPEN
the BARNYARD Saloon


IS THAT FUCKING CROSS-JACK?

YOU GUYS WANNA PLAY?
TWO ON TWO?
HELL NO, THIRD GEN!
EVERYBODY KNOWS Y'ALL ARE CHEATERS.

HAHA! DUDE!
GOOD ONE!
YEAH. OKAY. I GET IT.

"FUCK CROSSJACK," RIGHT?
I MEAN, I ONLY SAVED THE WORLD FROM *MALEBOLGIA* ONCE.

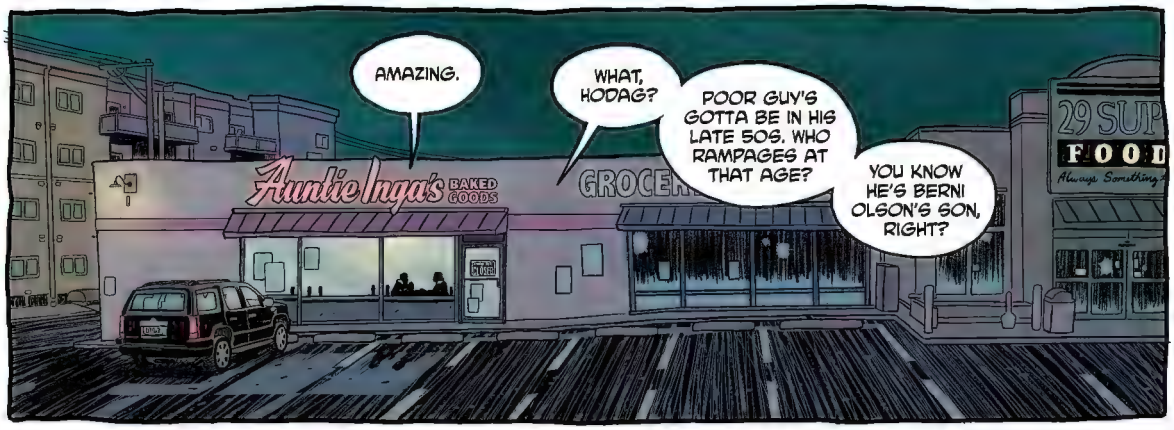

POK
POK
POK
POK
NO BIG DEAL.

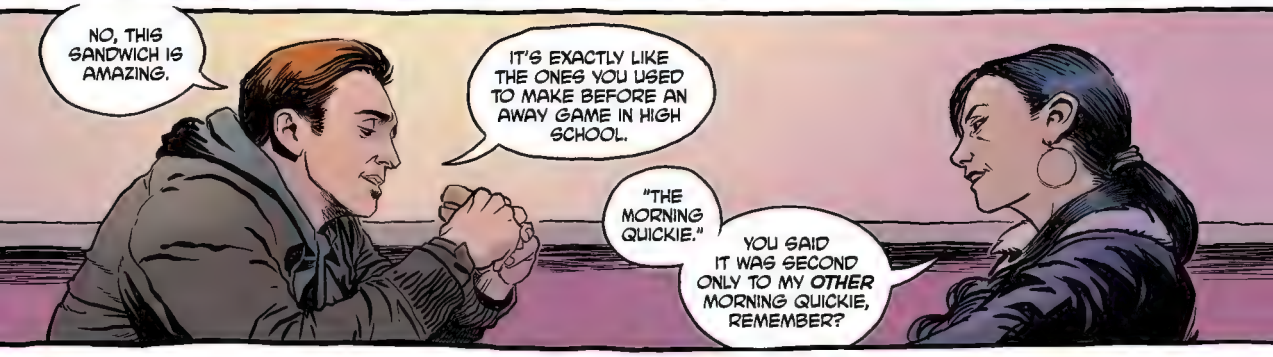
EXIT
INGA?
TIK
TIK
Inga Bucholz (Johanning)
987 Friends
Posts
About
Friends
Photos
Videos
Check-ins
More
3 Years Ago
Owner at Auntie Inga's Bake Goods
Married to Brian Bucholz
Photos
THROWBACK! Senior Prom
Extreme. #90sKids
Comment
Share
HEY MAN.
NO FUCKIN' WAY.

I GOTTA.
I GOTTA GET IN. GOTTA.
YOUR DUMB ASS ISN'T WELCOME HERE, STUPID.
SO TURN AROUND ...
AND TAKE YOUR COOKIE MONSTER ASS WITH YOU.
SKEEK
RAAAH!
YOU AIN'T STOPPIN' ME!
KRAK
WHEN THE HODAG COMES FOR CROSSJACK ...
...NOBODY BETTER STAND IN HIS WAY!!

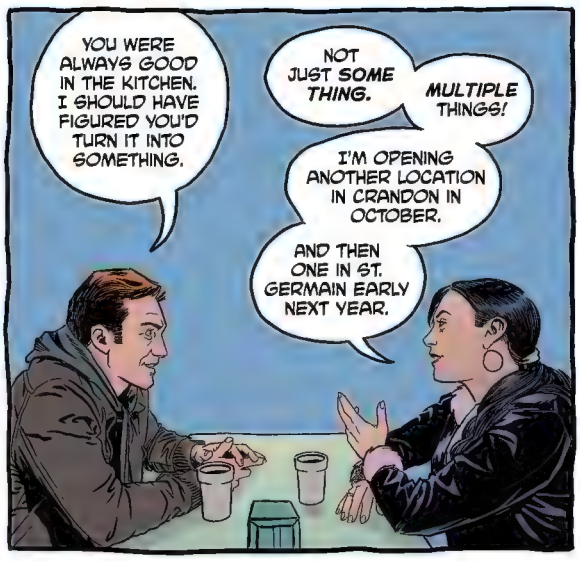
HEY!
EVERYBODY BE COOL.
JACK'S BACK.
CROSSJACK. I'S LOOKIN' FER YOU--
HNF
AND I'M GUESSING YOU WANNA RELIVE OUR GLORY DAYS?
YOU RAMPAGE DOWN MAIN STREET AND THEN I KICK THE SHIT OUT OF YOU?
GOOD. I WAS FEELING NOSTALGIC!
WRAM
BUT... BUT, JACK. I JUST COME TO SEE YA N'SO.
I GOTTA TELL YA ABOUT THIS PLACE I WENT--
YOU!

I KNEW I SHOULDNA LET YOU IN!
ALL YOU DO IS BRING SHIT WHEREVER YOU GO!
YOU'RE FUCKIN' OUTTA HERE, ASSHOLE!
HNF!
BARN
CALL THE SHERIFF FOR THE FUCKIN' BLUE-HAIRED IDIOT.
AND GET ME AN ICY COLD SIX-PACK!
AND ONE FOR MY FACE TOO!
SON OF A--
HEY. YOU LOOK HUNGRY.
CAN I MAKE YOU A SNACK, JACK?


AMAZING.
WHAT, HODAG?
POOR GUY'S GOTTA BE IN HIS LATE 50S. WHO RAMPAGES AT THAT AGE?
YOU KNOW HE'S BERNI OLSON'S SON, RIGHT?
Auntie Inga's BAKED GOODS
29 SUP
FOOD
Always Something

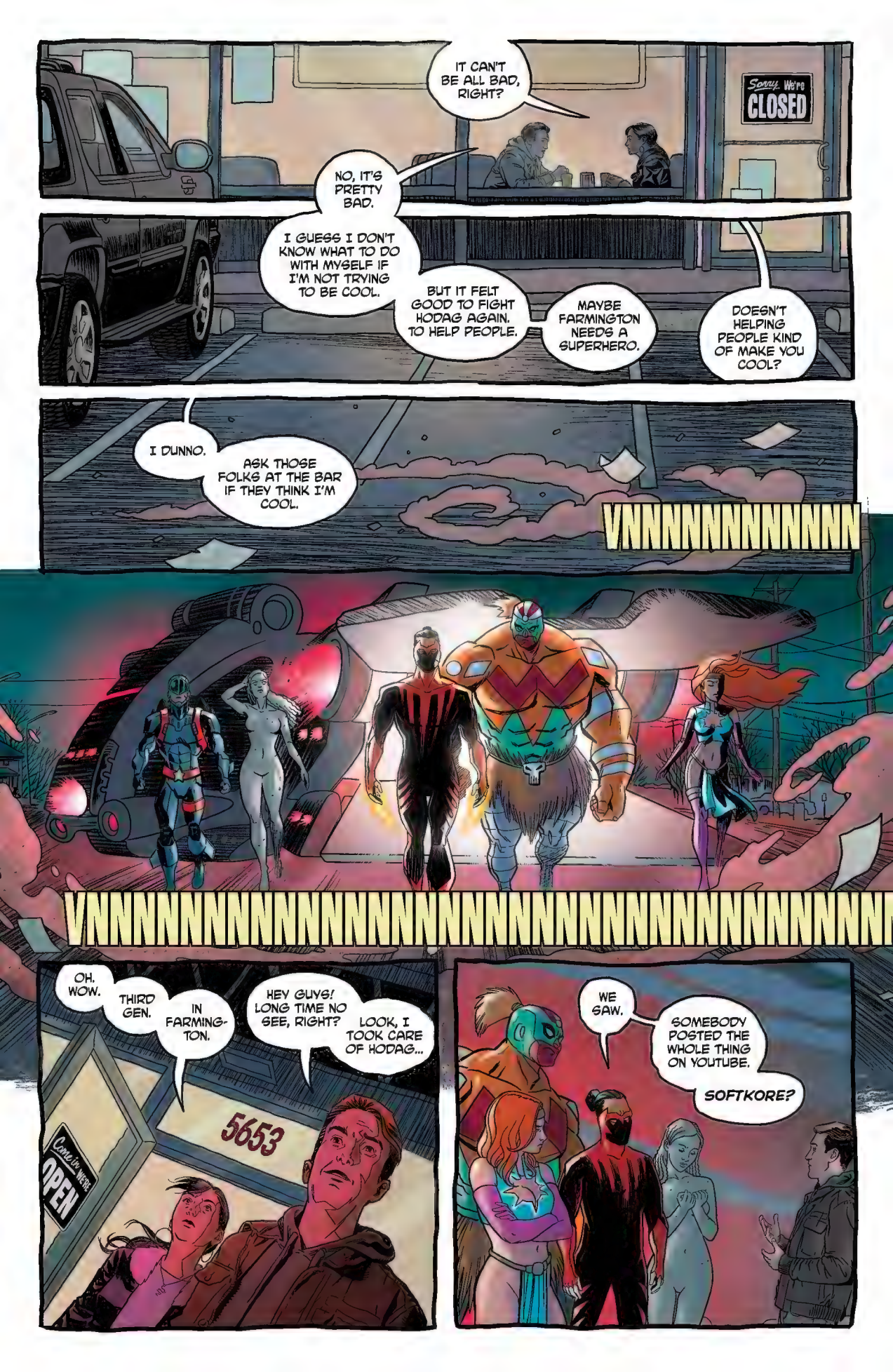

NO, THIS SANDWICH IS AMAZING.
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE ONES YOU USED TO MAKE BEFORE AN AWAY GAME IN HIGH SCHOOL.
"THE MORNING QUICKIE."
YOU SAID IT WAS SECOND ONLY TO MY *OTHER* MORNING QUICKIE, REMEMBER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WROTE "MORNING QUICKIE" ON YOUR MENU BOARD.
HEY, SEX *ALWAYS* SELLS.
EVEN EGG SANDWICHES.
DRINKS M L
COFFEE .75 1.50 1.99
CAPPUCCINO .75 1.50 1.99
MILK .85 1.99
JUICE 1.25 1.99
BOTTLE WATER 1.25
SODA BOTTLE 1.25
CAN .75
.75
APPLE FRITTER
CREAM HORN
CHOCOLATE CHIP
DONUT HOLES


YOU WERE ALWAYS GOOD IN THE KITCHEN. I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED YOU'D TURN IT INTO SOMETHING.
NOT JUST *SOME THING.*
MULTIPLE THINGS!
I'M OPENING ANOTHER LOCATION IN CRANDON IN OCTOBER.
AND THEN ONE IN ST. GERMAIN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

AND THEN *AUNTIE INGA* WILL TAKE OVER THE WORLD!
MUAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

HAPPY KIDS, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS, RESPECTABLE HUSBAND.
WE ALWAYS WERE LIKE SHIPS PASSING IN THE NIGHT, WEREN'T WE?
THIS TIME YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY UP... AND I'M...


IT CAN'T BE ALL BAD, RIGHT?
Sorry We're CLOSED
NO, IT'S PRETTY BAD.
I GUESS I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF IF I'M NOT TRYING TO BE COOL.
BUT IT FELT GOOD TO FIGHT HODAG AGAIN. TO HELP PEOPLE.
MAYBE FARMINGTON NEEDS A SUPERHERO.
DOESN'T HELPING PEOPLE KIND OF MAKE YOU COOL?
I DUNNO.
ASK THOSE FOLKS AT THE BAR IF THEY THINK I'M COOL.
VNNNNNNNNNNNN
VNNNNNNNNNNN

YOU'VE BEEN SERVED, JACK.
AS PER YOUR CONTRACT TERMINATION, YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO USE ANY SHIELD--
IT WAS A GARBAGE CAN LID--
OR SHIELD-LIKE OBJECT.
THE NAME CROSSJACK IS COPYRIGHTED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THIRD GEN ENTERPRISES.
OTHER VIOLATIONS OF SAID CONTRACT INCLUDE SOLVING CRIMES, BATTLING SUPERHUMAN VILLAINS, NON-SUPERHUMAN VILLAINS, OR ENGAGING IN LARGE-SCALE EVENTS AGAINST COSMIC OR OTHERWISE INFINITELY POWERFUL BEINGS.
JESUS.
I SUPPOSE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO RESCUE KITTENS OUT OF TREES--
OH, NOPE, THAT'S OKAY.
LOOK, THIS IS INSANE. IT'S NOT LIKE I COMMITTED A CRIME.
NEON. TELL THEM THIS IS STUPID.
ERICA--!
ERICA!

FUCKIN' A, HODAG.
DEACON PROBABLY GOT A BROKEN NOSE, N' SO.
FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Police
FARMINGTON POLICE
WHAT KINDA NONSENSE MADE YA GO N' HURT SOMEONE AGAIN?

CROSSJACK.
DID HE HEAR ME?
YEAH YEAH. EVERYBODY HEARD YOU.
C'MON, NOW.

AHN! HURTS!
IT HURTS!
WELL, THEN QUIT RESISTIN'.
NOW I'M JUST GONNA PUT YA DOWN FOR THE NIGHT, OKIE DOKIE?

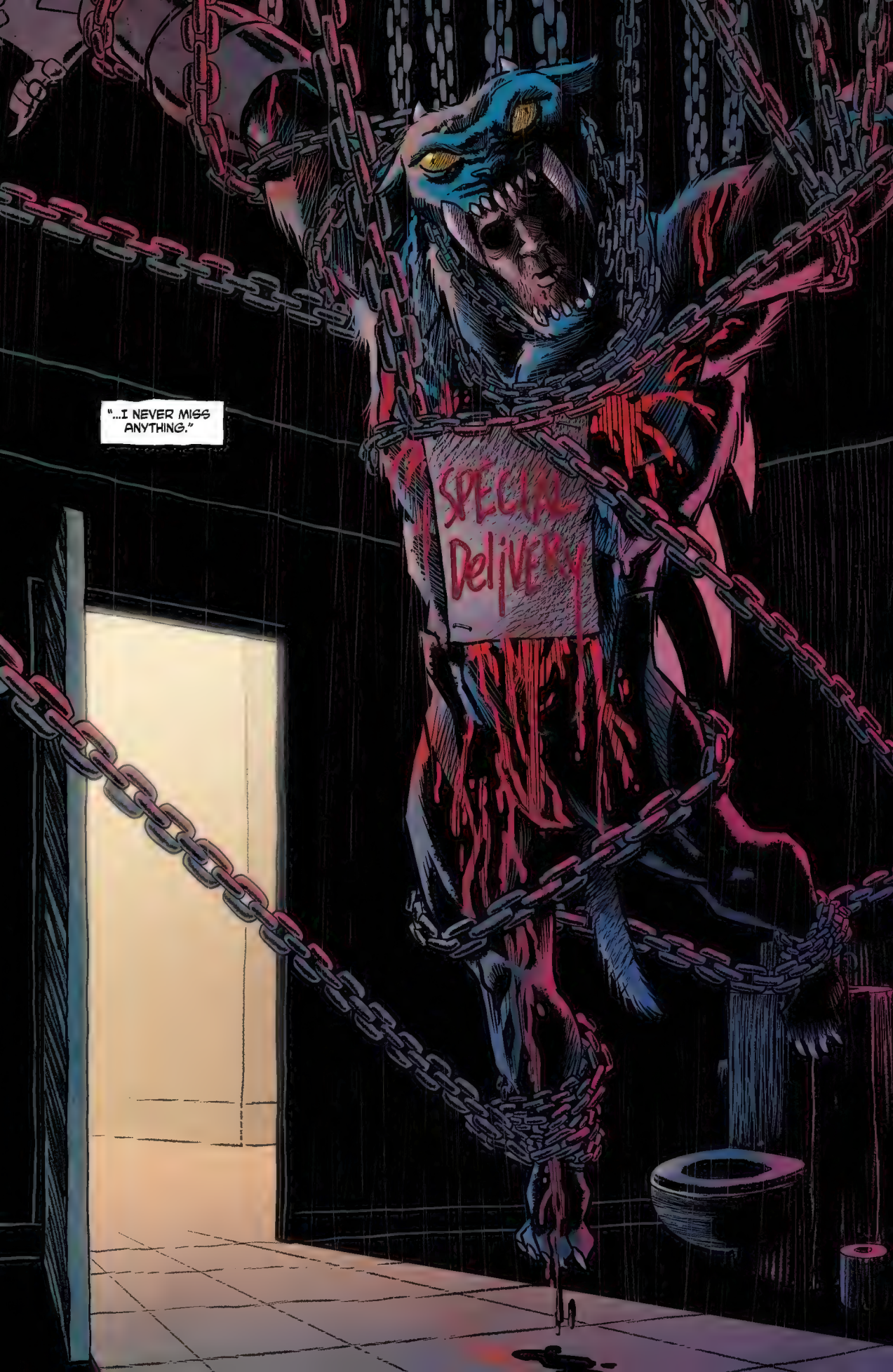
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO TELL HIM.
ABOUT HOW I TRIED TO FIX THE HURT.
HOW THEY LIED.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT "THEY" DO N'SO.
TRY PRAYIN' TO OUR LORD JESUS.
HE FORGIVES THE SINNERS, EVEN GUYS LIKE YOU.

YOU PRAY HARD ENOUGH, HE'LL SEND YA AN ANGEL TO TAKE THE PAIN AWAY.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HEAD HOME.
BRIAN'LL BE WAITING--
RIGHT. KIDS N' STUFF.
YOU WANT A RIDE?
IT'S DARK...
NAH.
NAH, I'M GOOD.
WHUH?

RUSTLE
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
OH.
POK
IEEEGH--

PEPPER?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE?
JEEZ, MAYBE YOU REALLY ARE INVINCIBLE...
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I MISSED.


"...I NEVER MISS ANYTHING."
SPECIAL DELIVERY

EXTRA-image
CROSSJACK
ENTER... Pepper!
1ST
CAN'T MISS
ISSUE!

SO WE'RE JUST JUMPING RIGHT INTO THIS?!
YOU SOUND SURPRISED, CROSSJACK.
WE'RE THE BEST OF THE BEST. WHAT WE DO, NO ONE DOES BETTER.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE OF US, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET USED TO A LITTLE--
BAPTISM BY FIRE!

IT'S THIRD GEN!
CLOSE THE GATES! LOCK DOWN THE UNDISCLOSED!
TAKE CUTTING EDGE FOR INSTANCE.
ONE OF THE SMARTEST GUYS TO EVER COME OUT OF SILICON VALLEY. BUT HE TURNED DOWN MILLIONS, BECAUSE BEING RICH WITH VENGEANCE IS SO MUCH SWEETER.
WE'VE ALL DONE IT.
THRAM
HNH!
AT THIS POINT, TAKING DOWN THUGS LIKE THE FACELESS HORDES IS AS SECOND NATURE TO ME AS PRAYING.
YOUR SECURITY HAS JUST BEEN HACKED--
TO DEATH!
SLKT

YOU FEEL ME, BOYS?
SHOOM
SOFTKORE WENT FROM GYRATING PROVOCATIVELY IN MUSICAL VIDEOS TO HEEDING THE CALL TO ACTION WHEN AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COATED HER SKIN IN AN IMPENETRABLE POLYMER.
AIR RAIDER WAS AN AIR FORCE PILOT SHOT DOWN BY RUSSIAN MIGS WHO SURVIVED BY FUSING HIMSELF WITH HIS PLANE.
TARGET LOCKED, 1, 2, 3.
SHOOM
NOW HIS NERVES OF STEEL REALLY ARE STEEL.
SHOOM
BIG ISLAND SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO AN ANGRY VOLCANO AS A BOY TO SAVE HIS VILLAGE AND WAS REWARDED WITH ALIEN CYBERNETIC TECHNOLOGY... THAT GAVE HIM THE POWER OF THE EARTH'S CORE ITSELF.
ALOHA, MOTHER-FUCKERS!
BAKADOOM

NEON WAS ENVELOPED BY EXTRADIMENSIONAL VAPORS ON HER HIPPIE COMMUNE WHICH GAVE HER THE ABILITY TO CONTROL AND EMIT LASER LIGHT, MAKING HER A DEADLY ANGEL OF THE NIGHT.
AND, ME, I'M THE GOD-BLESSED
CAMO CRUSADER
CHOSEN AS THE SAVIOR OF CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.
YOU MIGHT THINK THAT'D PUT ME AT ODDS WITH A PAGAN LEFTIST LIKE NEON.
BUT WE'VE ONLY GOT EYES FOR EACH OTHER, DON'T WE, BABY?
LOOKING GOOD OUT THERE, CROSSJACK.
NOW, COME ON, KID. TIME TO EARN THAT TOP DRAFT PICK.
TRACK DOWN DOOMSDAY.

THERE.
THAT'S IT.
THE APHEK ENGINE!
SZZZZN
AND IT'S WARMING UP. WE'VE GOT TO TAKE IT DOWN.
NOT IF THE DESOLATORS, AND A FAT WAD OF THE FACELESS HORDES' MONEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.
SUPERIO
MERCY LESS
PAIN KILLER
FRIGHTSIDE
THE HODAG
YOU! BUT HOW?
COME ON. YA REALLY THINK I WAS GONNA LET YA GRADUATE TO THE BIG LEAGUES WITHOUT ME?
I'M HERE, AND I'M CYBERIZED, KID!
WAIT, IS THAT YOUR "ARCHENEMY" FROM BACK IN YOUR PODUNK TOWN?
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'D CALL HIM THAT, BUT--

CUTE.
THRAKOOM
WHOK
THROK
THRAM
SPLOK
THIRD GEN!
REPORT!
DESOLATORS ARE FUCKIN' DESOLATED!
AND THE APHEK ENGINE HAS BEEN DEACTIVATED.
HOO-AH!
DOES IT MATTER? WE WON!
AND WE LOOKED COOL DOING IT.
YEAH. YEAH RIGHT.
COOL.
NHHH.
WAIT.
WHAT'D WE DO HERE?
WHO'D WE SAVE?
NEXT ISSUE:
WHO ARE THE FOURTH GEN?! BE HERE FOR GEN-CADEMY!

Chapter 2

JACK!
The Farmington Gazette
50c Issue IXII Vol. LIV
OCTOBER 17, 1952
Young hero beats rampaging Hodag
Robert Morast for the Gazette
The Farmington
LOCAL SPORTS
MARCH 31 1960
Farmington pitcher always hits his mark
Ellen Olsen from the web
JACK!
Farmingto
DXV Vol. XXV
SEPTEMBER
Farmington High's Xaver Scores all of team's championship points
K Olsen for the Gaz
JACK!
HMMNH.
Hamm's
The Farmington Gazett
The Farmington
JACK!
CAN YOU GET UP HERE?
RIGHT NOW, PLEASE?!

MR. XAVER. I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME.

IS THIS ABOUT *HODAG?*

YES, IT SURELY IS. MR. JEREMY OLSON.

YOU CAN'T GO TO THE STATION LOOKING LIKE THAT.

I'LL GET YOU A NICE COAT.

160

FARMINGTON POLICE

LOOK, HE STARTED IT.

WE HAVE HISTORY...

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO WEAR CUFFS.

WHY?

CUZ YOU TURN INVISIBLE, YEAH?

NO.

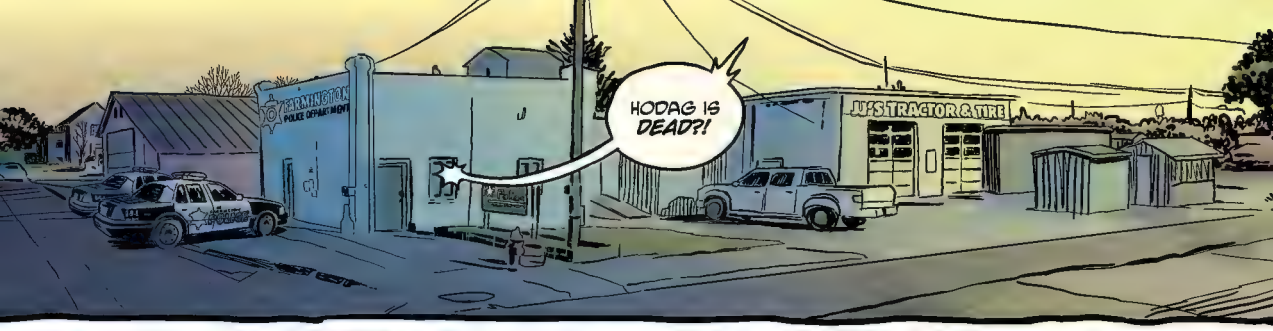
SUPER-STRENGTH THEN?

WHAT ARE WE CALLING SUPER?

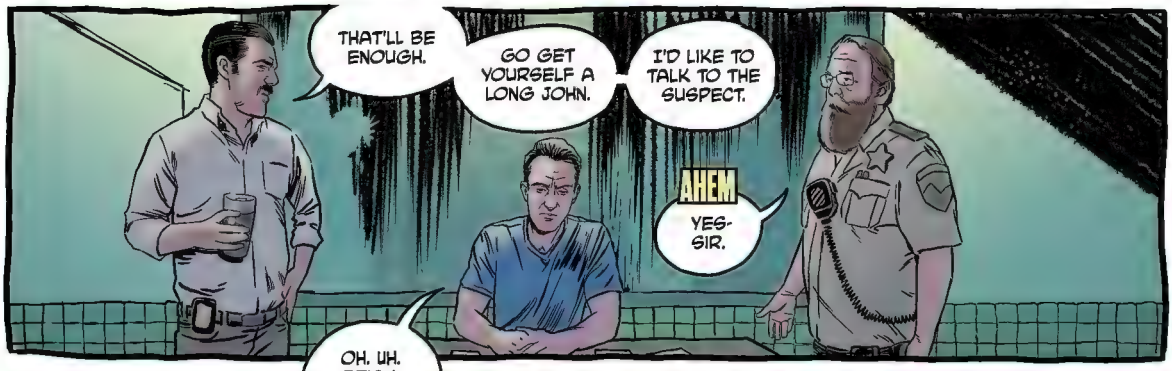
I MEAN, ABOVE AVERAGE?

WAIT! WAIT, PUT THIS ON!

MA'AM--


HODAG IS DEAD?!
JJ'S TRACTOR & TIRE

OH, JESUS CHRIST...
HEY NOW!
NONE A' THAT KIND OF SWEARIN' LIKE THAT, ESPECIALLY FROM IDOLATROUS--
OFFICER KOPECKI.


THAT'LL BE ENOUGH.
GO GET YOURSELF A LONG JOHN.
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO THE SUSPECT.
AHEM
YES-SIR.

OH. UH. BRIAN, RIGHT?
WELL, WOULD YA LOOK AT ME. THE FAMOUS GUY KNOWS WHO I AM.
THAT MAKE ME FAMOUS TOO?
AND IT'S CHIEF BUCHOLZ.
OKAY, CHIEF. YOUR WIFE AND I...
AHEM
I GREW UP HERE. SO WE'RE FRIENDS.
ON FACE-BOOK.

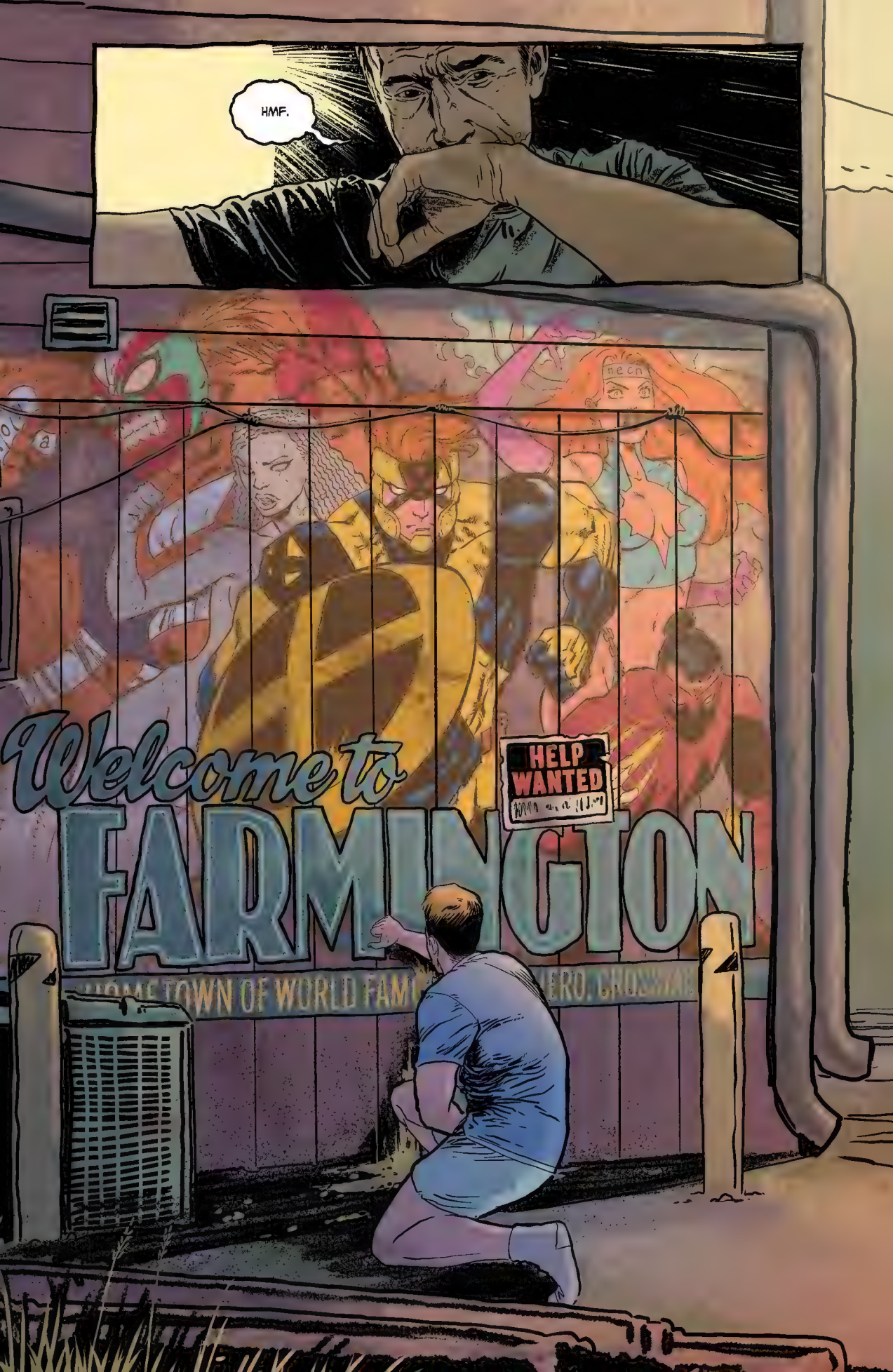
LOOK, WHEN I LEFT HODAG, HE WAS TOTALLY FINE.
HE AND I...

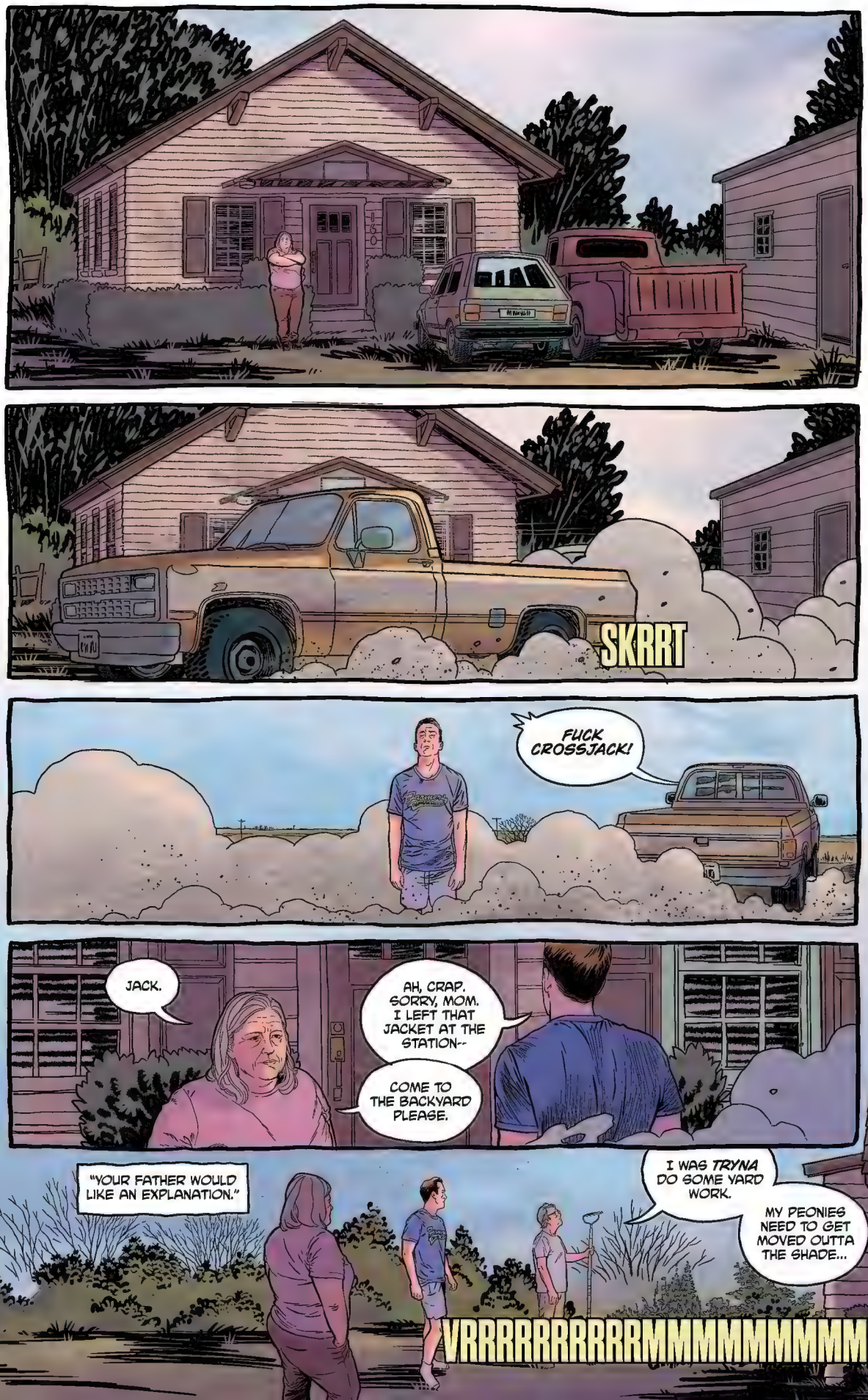
WAIT.
YOU THINK I KILLED HIM.

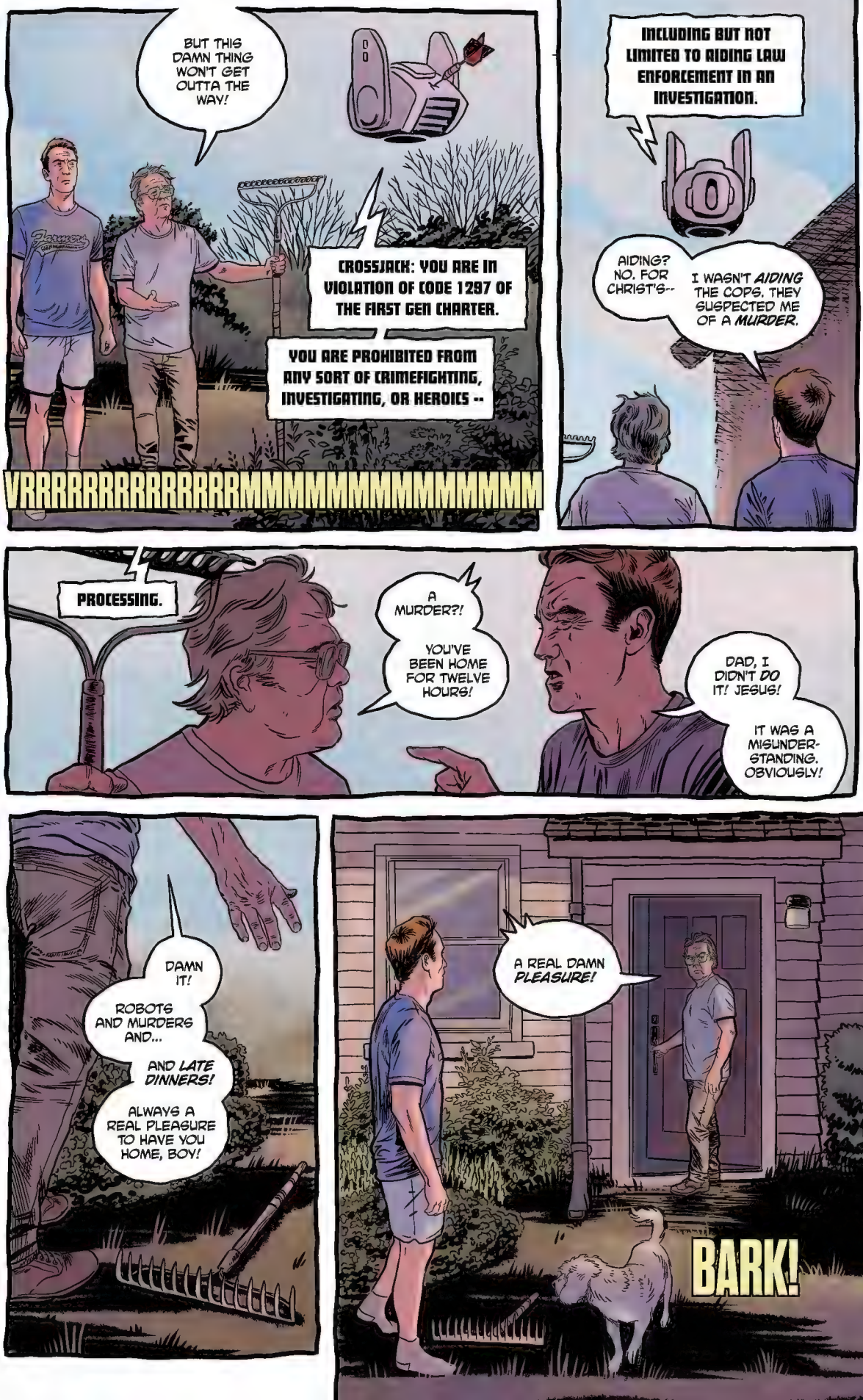
CRAZY, RIGHT?
THE SUPERPOWERED ARCHENEMY OF MY DEAD BODY IS BACK IN TOWN AFTER YEARS OF PLAYING BY HIS OWN RULES!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY SUSPECT HIM?!
SIGH.
MAYBE I DIDN'T GROW UP HERE, MAN, BUT I KNOW THE HISTORY.
CHIEF... BRIAN.
HODAG AND I FOUGHT. A LOT. BUT...
WHATEVER YOU ALL THINK OF ME NOW...
I'M A GOOD GUY.
I FOUGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY. FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE.
TRUTH AND JUSTICE, HUH?
YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT CAMO CRUSADER WOULDA CALLED IT?
EVERYBODY IN TOWN KNOWS WHY HE KICKED YOUR ASS TO THE CURB AFTER TWENTY-SOME YEARS.
INGA.
YOUR WIFE.
CALL HER.
SHE'S MY ALIBI.

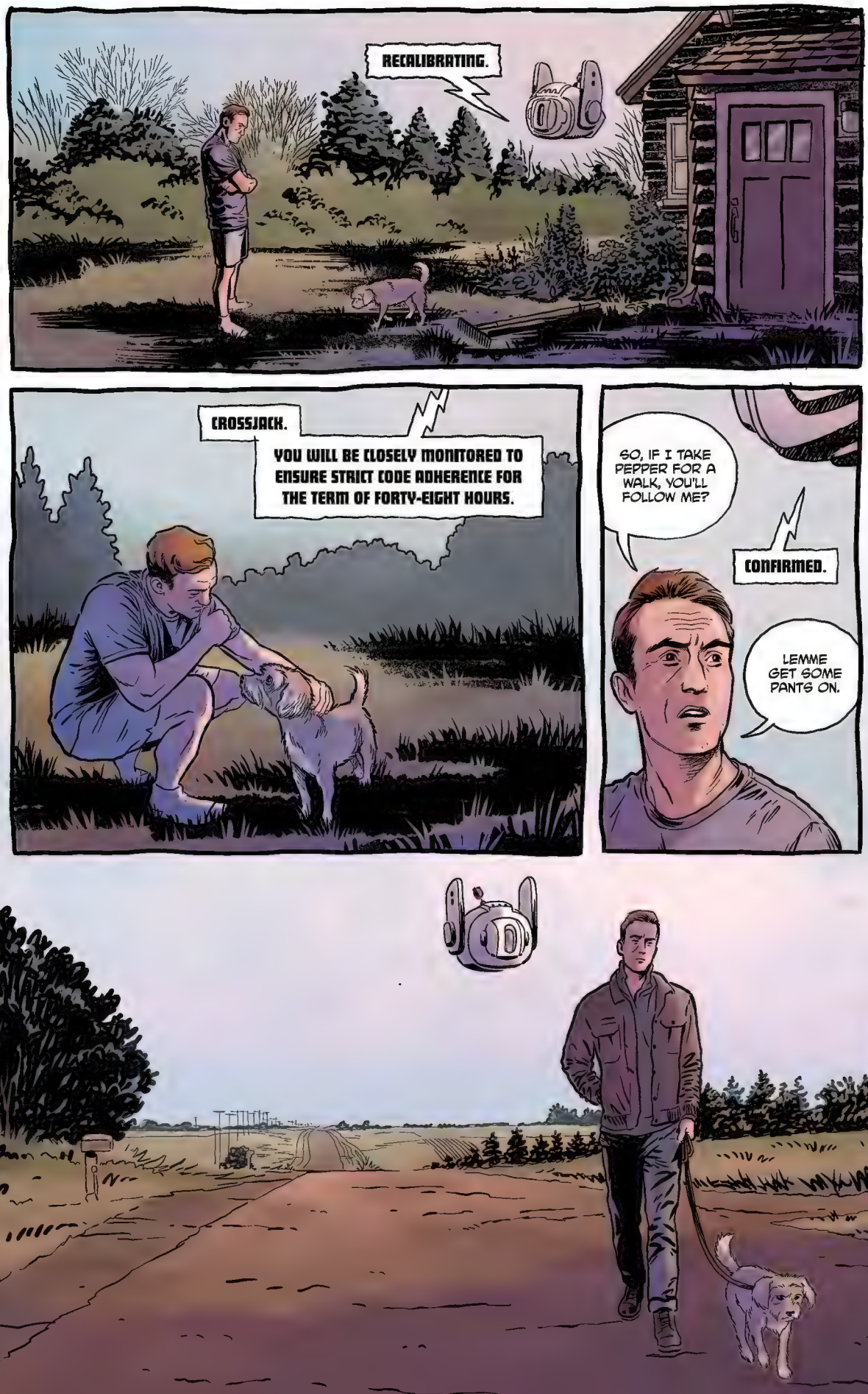
THAT'S IT?
INGA SAYS SHE WAS WITH YOU.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
EVEN IF SHE WASN'T MY WIFE, SHE'S STILL ROYALTY IN THIS TOWN.
GO PUT SOME PANTS ON.
POLICE
WAIT. HODAG DIED IN YOUR JAIL!
DO YOU HAVE OTHER SUSPECTS? HE HAD OTHER ENEMIES BESIDES ME!
I'M SURE HE DID.
ONLY THING HE SAID BEFORE THE CAMERAS IN HIS CELL WENT TO SHIT IS "ARE YOU AN ANGEL?"
YOU KNOW ANY ANGELS?
LOOK, I GOT A DOG-MAULING AND A DISTURBANCE AT THE QUARRY TO DEAL WITH FIRST. REAL PEOPLE PROBLEMS.
WHICH REMINDS ME.
MY LOVELY WIFE MENTIONED YOU GOT SOME VISITORS LAST NIGHT.
SHE SAID THIRD GEN TOLD YA YOU AREN'T ALLOWED, BY COPYRIGHT LAW OF ALL THINGS, TO SUIT UP, AND DO ANY KIND OF HERO SHIT.
I GUESS THAT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU GETTING IN MY WAY, "CROSSJACK."
I KEEP TO MY OWN BUSINESS.
WAIT...
INGA DIDN'T MENTION US HAVING COFFEE LAST NIGHT BEFORE THIS?
FUNNY.
Y'KNOW WHAT'S FUNNIER?
SHE'S NEVER MENTIONED KNOWING YOU BEFORE AT ALL.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET MY OWN RIDE HOME.
GOT A DRVR GUY.
DICK.
ARE...
ARE YOU AN ANGEL?
HRR-ROLFFF!!

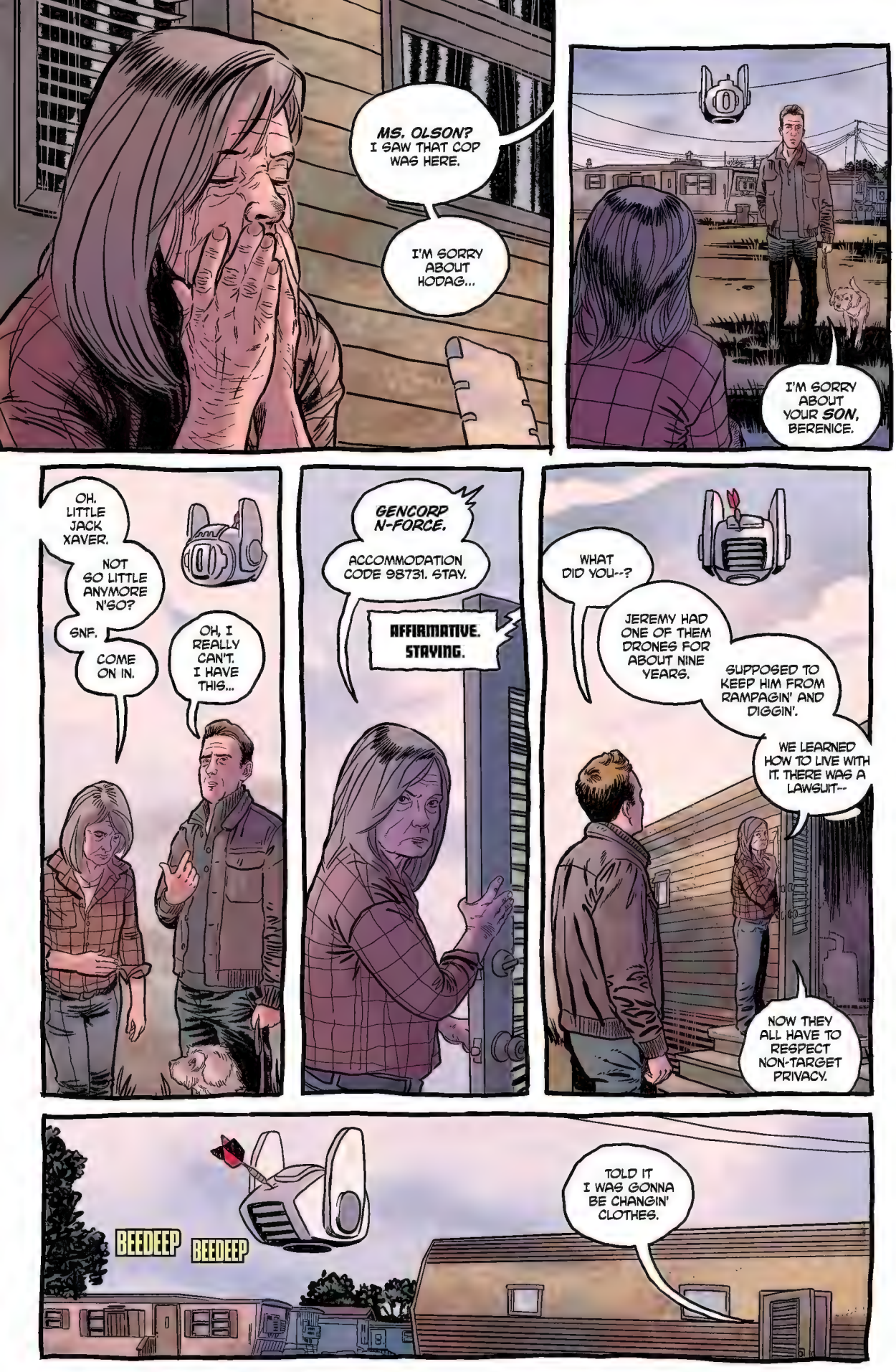

HMF.
Welcome to
FARMINGTON
HELP WANTED

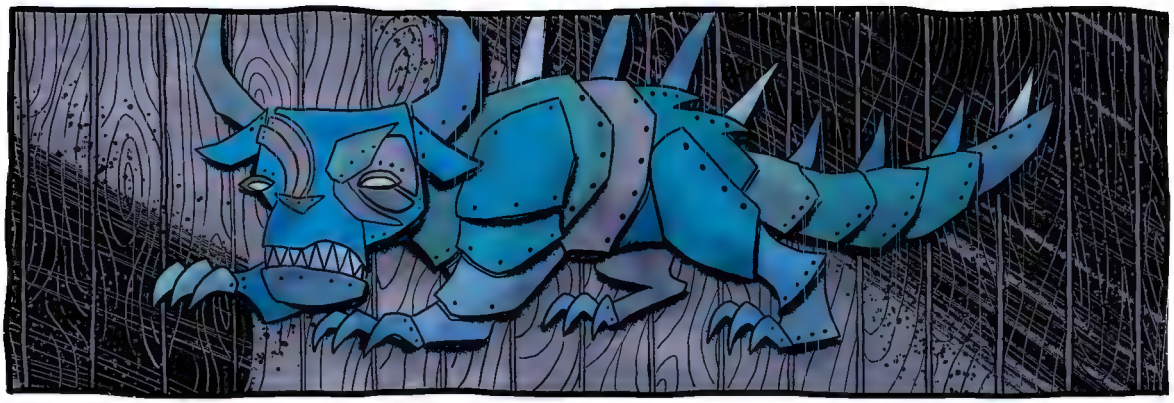

SKRRT
FUCK CROSSJACK!
JACK.
AH, CRAP. SORRY, MOM. I LEFT THAT JACKET AT THE STATION--
COME TO THE BACKYARD PLEASE.
"YOUR FATHER WOULD LIKE AN EXPLANATION."
I WAS TRYNA DO SOME YARD WORK.
MY PEONIES NEED TO GET MOVED OUTTA THE SHADE...
VRRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMMMMM

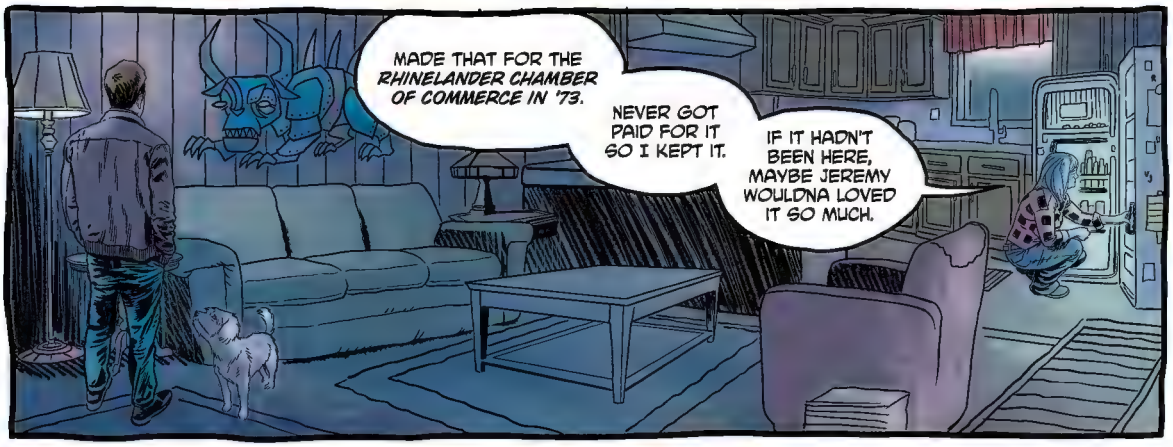

BUT THIS DAMN THING WON'T GET OUTTA THE WAY!
CROSSJACK: YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF CODE 1297 OF THE FIRST GEN CHARTER.
YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM ANY SORT OF CRIMEFIGHTING, INVESTIGATING, OR HEROICS --
VRRRRRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN AN INVESTIGATION.
AIDING? NO. FOR CHRIST'S--
I WASN'T AIDING THE COPS. THEY SUSPECTED ME OF A MURDER.
PROCESSING.
A MURDER?!
YOU'VE BEEN HOME FOR TWELVE HOURS!
DAD, I DIDN'T DO IT! JESUS!
IT WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING. OBVIOUSLY!
DAMN IT!
ROBOTS AND MURDERS AND...
AND LATE DINNERS!
ALWAYS A REAL PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU HOME, BOY!
A REAL DAMN PLEASURE!
BARK!


RECALIBRATING.
CROSSJACK.
YOU WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED TO ENSURE STRICT CODE ADHERENCE FOR THE TERM OF FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
SO, IF I TAKE PEPPER FOR A WALK, YOU'LL FOLLOW ME?
CONFIRMED.
LEMME GET SOME PANTS ON.

COMMUNITY
VRRRRRRRRRRM
COME ON.
WI-FI
CABLE TV


MS. OLSON? I SAW THAT COP WAS HERE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT HODAG...
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR SON, BERENICE.
OH. LITTLE JACK XAVER.
NOT SO LITTLE ANYMORE N'SO?
SNF.
COME ON IN.
OH, I REALLY CAN'T. I HAVE THIS...
GENCORP N-FORCE.
ACCOMMODATION CODE 98731. STAY.
AFFIRMATIVE. STAYING.
WHAT DID YOU--?
JEREMY HAD ONE OF THEM DRONES FOR ABOUT NINE YEARS.
SUPPOSED TO KEEP HIM FROM RAMPAGIN' AND DIGGIN'.
WE LEARNED HOW TO LIVE WITH IT. THERE WAS A LAWSUIT--
NOW THEY ALL HAVE TO RESPECT NON-TARGET PRIVACY.
BEEDEEP
BEEDEEP
TOLD IT I WAS GONNA BE CHANGIN' CLOTHES.

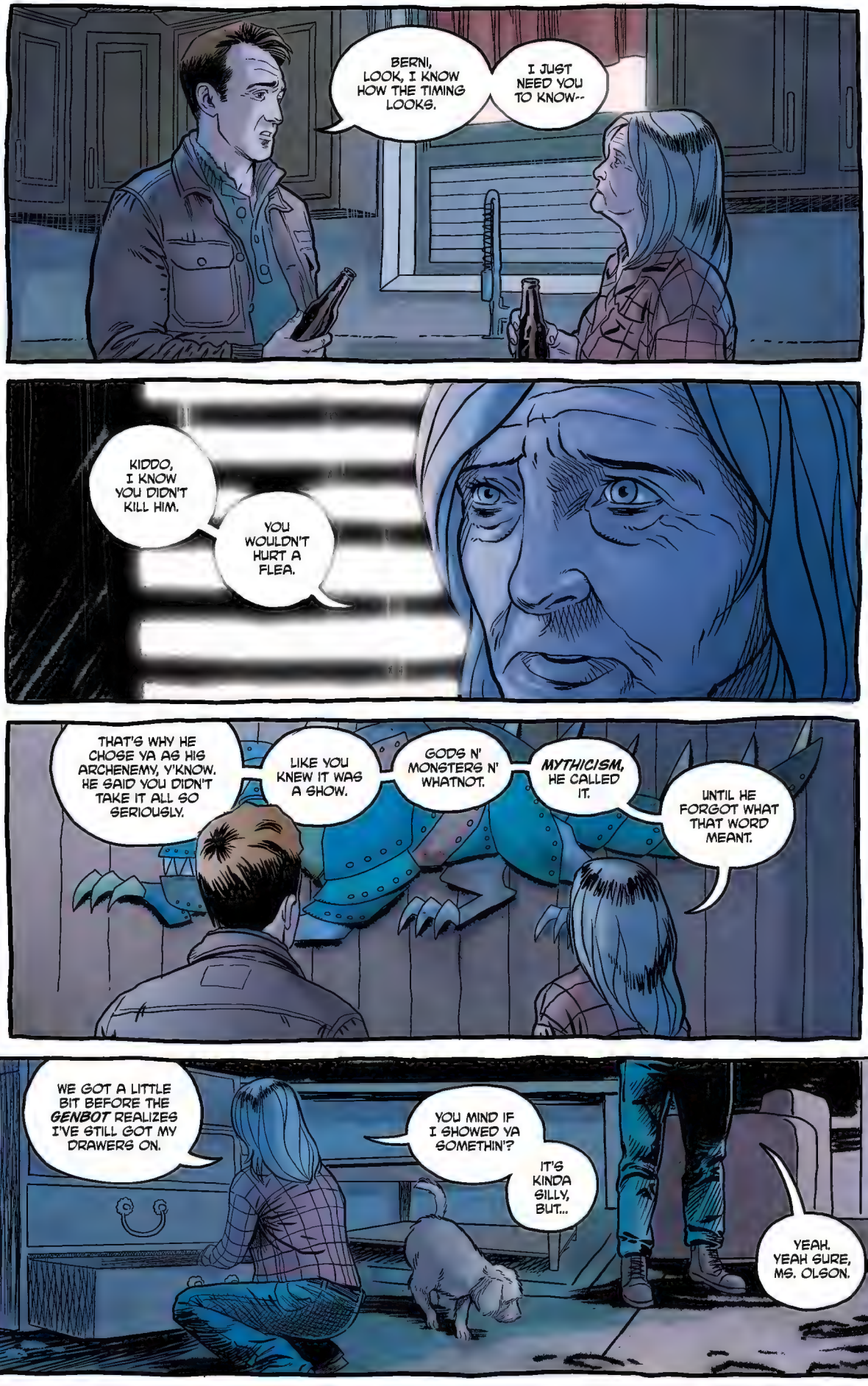


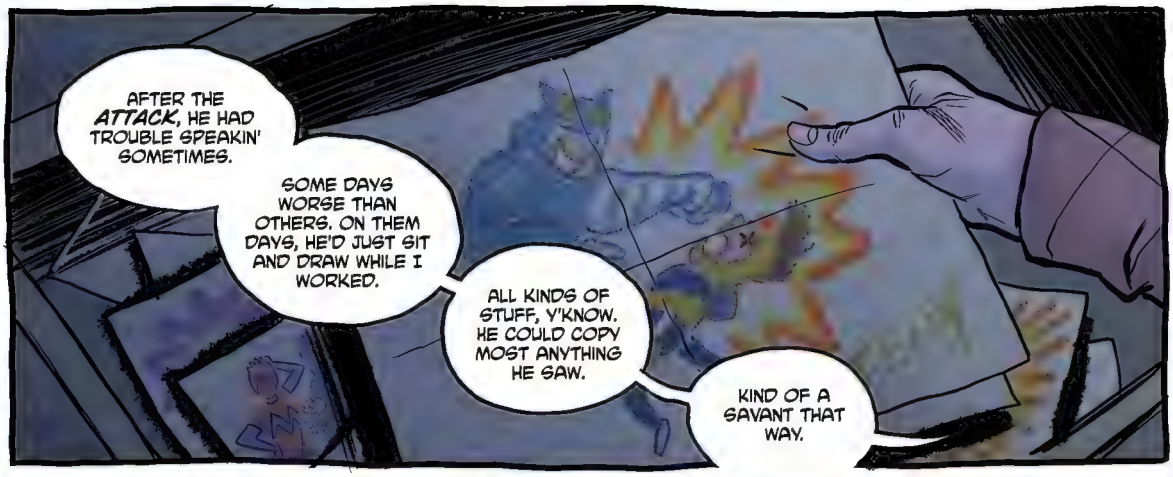

MADE THAT FOR THE *RHINELANDER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN '73.*
NEVER GOT PAID FOR IT SO I KEPT IT.
IF IT HADN'T BEEN HERE, MAYBE JEREMY WOULDNA LOVED IT SO MUCH.

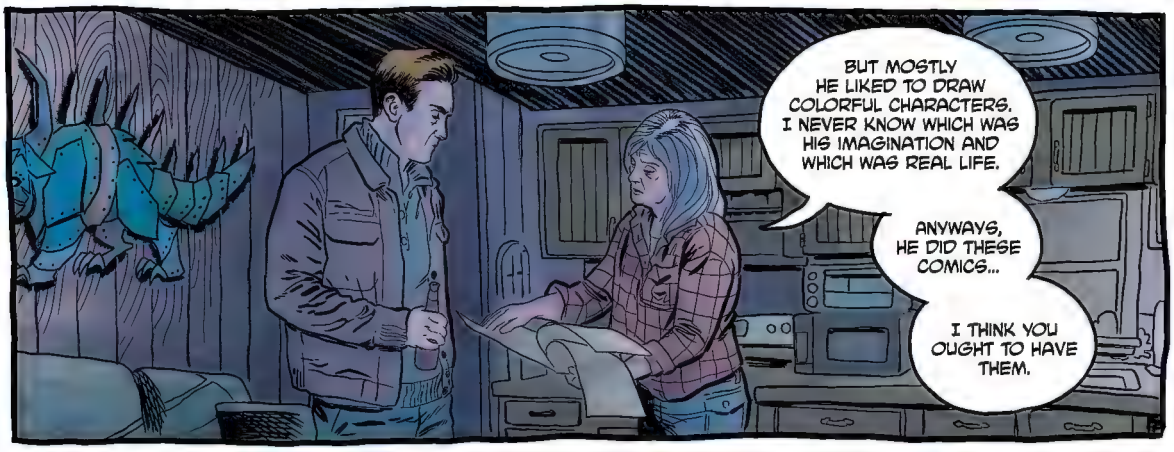
MAYBE HE'D A' NEVER NAMED HIMSELF AFTER THAT MONSTER.
HERE. THAT'S HOMEMADE ROOT BEER.
MS. OLSON. I'VE BEEN AWAY.
I THOUGHT JEREMY HAD STOPPED THE SUPERVILLAIN THING AFTER, YOU KNOW....

AFTER HE GOT HIS BRAIN PUNCHED IN?
YEAH. HE DID.
DESPITE IT ALL... DESPITE THE CONSTANT PAIN, THE UNEMPLOYMENT... DESPITE THAT GODDAMN BLUE SUIT STUCK TO HIS SKIN...
HE DID.

AND THEN HE DIDN'T.


BERNI, LOOK, I KNOW HOW THE TIMING LOOKS.
I JUST NEED YOU TO KNOW--
KIDDO, I KNOW YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM.
YOU WOULDN'T HURT A FLEA.
THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE YA AS HIS ARCHENEMY, Y'KNOW. HE SAID YOU DIDN'T TAKE IT ALL SO SERIOUSLY.
LIKE YOU KNEW IT WAS A SHOW.
GODS N' MONSTERS N' WHATNOT.
MYTHICISM, HE CALLED IT.
UNTIL HE FORGOT WHAT THAT WORD MEANT.
WE GOT A LITTLE BIT BEFORE THE *GENBOT* REALIZES I'VE STILL GOT MY DRAWERS ON.
YOU MIND IF I SHOWED YA SOMETHIN'?
IT'S KINDA SILLY, BUT...
YEAH. YEAH SURE, MS. OLSON.


AFTER THE ATTACK, HE HAD TROUBLE SPEAKIN' SOMETIMES.
SOME DAYS WORSE THAN OTHERS. ON THEM DAYS, HE'D JUST SIT AND DRAW WHILE I WORKED.
ALL KINDS OF STUFF, Y'KNOW. HE COULD COPY MOST ANYTHING HE SAW.
KIND OF A SAVANT THAT WAY.

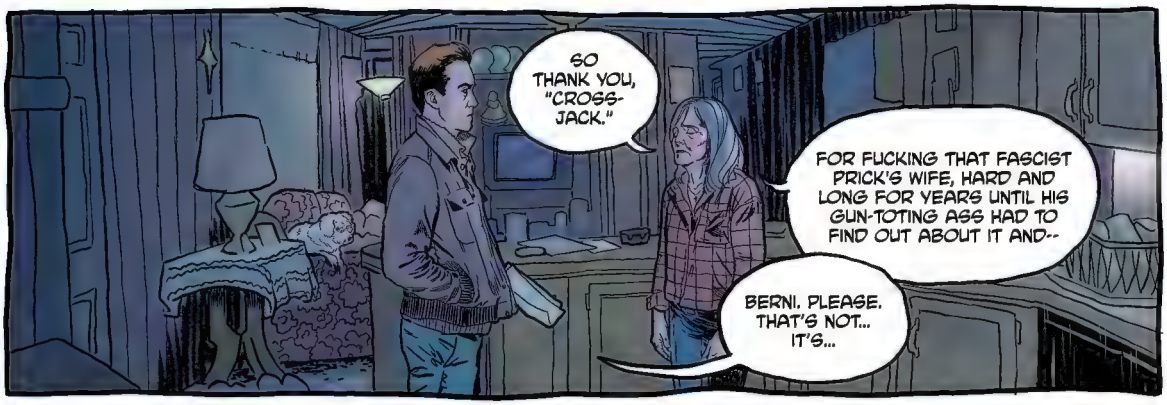

BUT MOSTLY HE LIKED TO DRAW COLORFUL CHARACTERS. I NEVER KNOW WHICH WAS HIS IMAGINATION AND WHICH WAS REAL LIFE.
ANYWAYS, HE DID THESE COMICS...
I THINK YOU OUGHT TO HAVE THEM.

CHILDISH, I KNOW.
SUPERHERO STUFF...

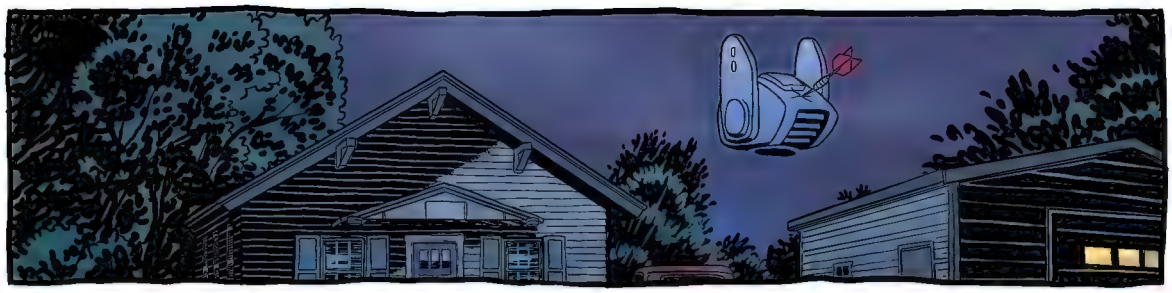
WOW. THANKS.
JACK. ONE MORE THING...

I DUNNO WHO KILLED MY BOY.
BUT I DO KNOW, WHATEVER HE WAS, HE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT CAMO CRUSADER CRACKED HIS SKULL AND MADE CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID RUN OUT OF HIS NOSE, JUST FOR FUN.

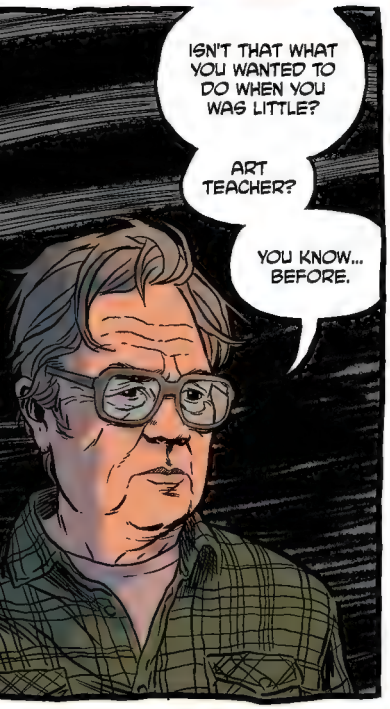
AFTER THEY SENT HIM HOME WITH ONE OF THOSE BILLION-DOLLAR ROBOTS TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T SAY OR DO THE WRONG THING...
INSTEAD OF SPENDING THAT MONEY TO FIX HIS IMPLANTS, OR LET HIM JUST LIVE ONE DAY WITHOUT AGONIZING PAIN IN HIS HEAD.


SO THANK YOU, "CROSS-JACK."
FOR FUCKING THAT FASCIST PRICK'S WIFE, HARD AND LONG FOR YEARS UNTIL HIS GUN-TOTING ASS HAD TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT AND--
BERNI. PLEASE. THAT'S NOT... IT'S...

THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.

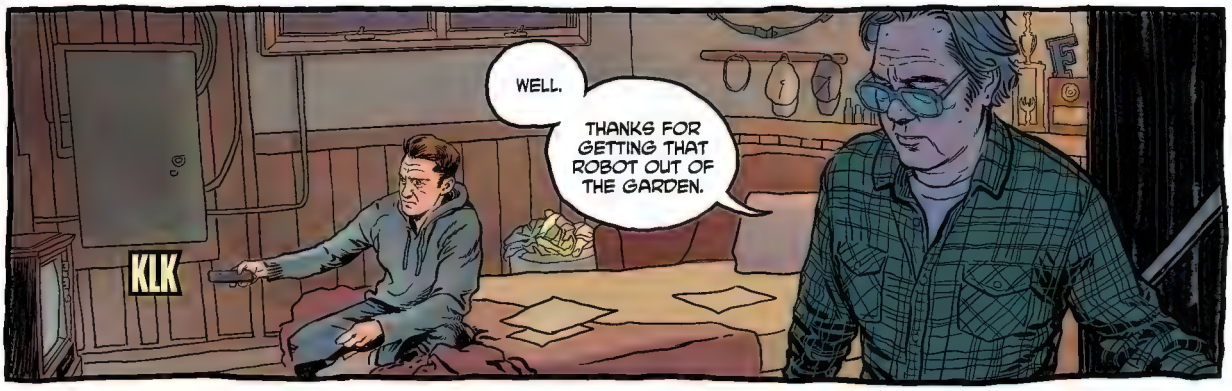


WHAT'S THAT NOW?
JUST SOME DRAWINGS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY WAS DONE BY A KID.
BASICALLY.


ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO WHEN YOU WAS LITTLE?
ART TEACHER?
YOU KNOW... BEFORE.

YOU MEAN BEFORE I COULD SINK EVERY BASKET, NAIL EVERY PASS, HIT EVERY TARGET--
BEFORE I GOT POWERS?
I DUNNO. I CAN'T EVEN REALLY REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE THAT.
THEY ASKED ME--
AT THE CO/OP, THEY ASKED ME WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING ON DOING NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE.

TELL THE GUYS AT THE CO/OP THEY'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW AS SOON AS I FIGURE IT OUT.
AH. WELL. Y'KNOW, YOUR MOM N' ME.
WE SAW ON THE TV NEWS. ABOUT OL' HODAG.
AND Y'KNOW... Y'KNOW...

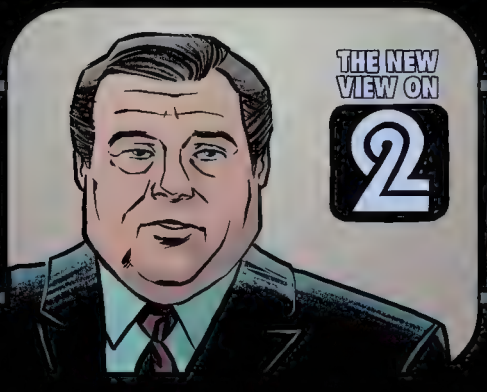

WELL.
THANKS FOR GETTING THAT ROBOT OUT OF THE GARDEN.
KLK

...MINOR SUPERVILLAIN WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CELL THIS MORNING, AND AUTHORITIES ARE CALLING THE CAUSE OF DEATH SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH NO OTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

OLSON FIRST CAME TO PROMINENCE IN A SERIES OF VANDALISM-RELATED CRIMES ACROSS SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN BEFORE JOINING THE ***MEGA-MERCENARY*** GROUP CALLED ***THE DESOLATORS***....

...SWINGING FROM THE CELL CEILING, EH? REMIND YOU OF SOMEBODY ELSE? CUZ I'M THINKING THIS IS ANOTHER CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT TAKING OUT THE TRASH. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

GOOD.



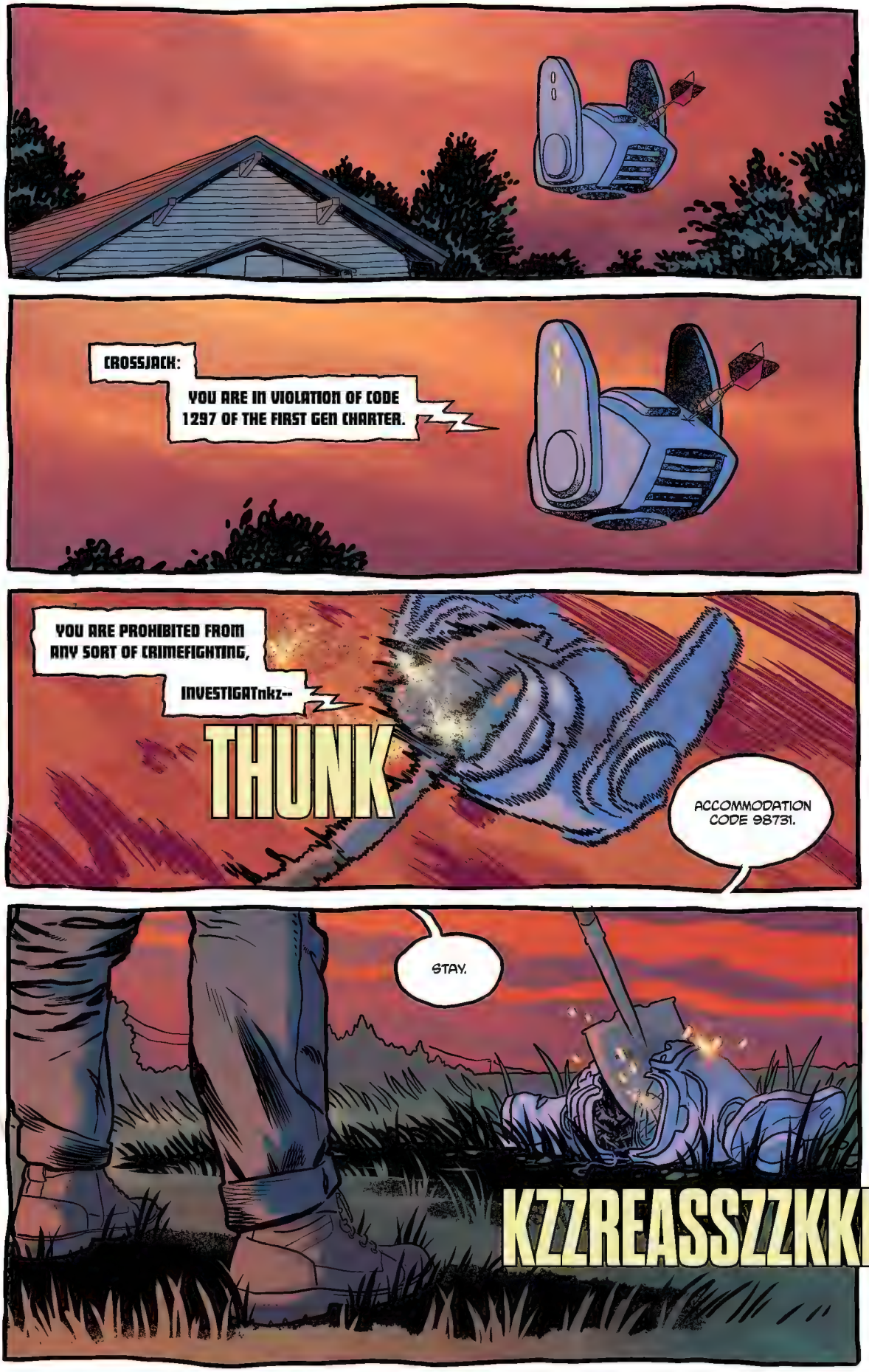
THIS GUY HODAG WAS SCUM. A TERRORIST. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WHOEVER ACED HIM AND THE OTHERS IS DOING YOU A FAVOR BY SAVING YOUR TAX DOLLARS.

CELL BLOCK HANGMAN FOR PRESIDENT!

...THE REAL STORY HERE IS THAT SOURCES ON THE INSIDE REVEALED JACK XAVER, AKA CROSSJACK, WAS CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN?

RUMOR HAS IT THERE'S A SCARLET LETTER ON THE SCANDALOUS MR. JACK'S FOREHEAD NOW. SO SCARLET HE GOT KICKED FROM THE HALLOWED HALLS OF THIRD GEN HQ BACK TO A DINGY ONE-STOPLIGHT TOWN IN FLYOVER COUNTRY.

KLK
CONSTRUCTORS
OF
APHEK
APHEK.
THERE.
THAT'S IT.
THE APHEK ENGINE!
NOT IF


CROSSJACK:
YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF CODE 1297 OF THE FIRST GEN CHARTER.
YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM ANY SORT OF CRIMEFIGHTING,
INVESTIGATnkz--
THUNK
ACCOMMODATION CODE 98731.
STAY.
KZZREASSZZKKKK

DON'T WORRY.
I'LL KEEP TO MY OWN BUSINESS.

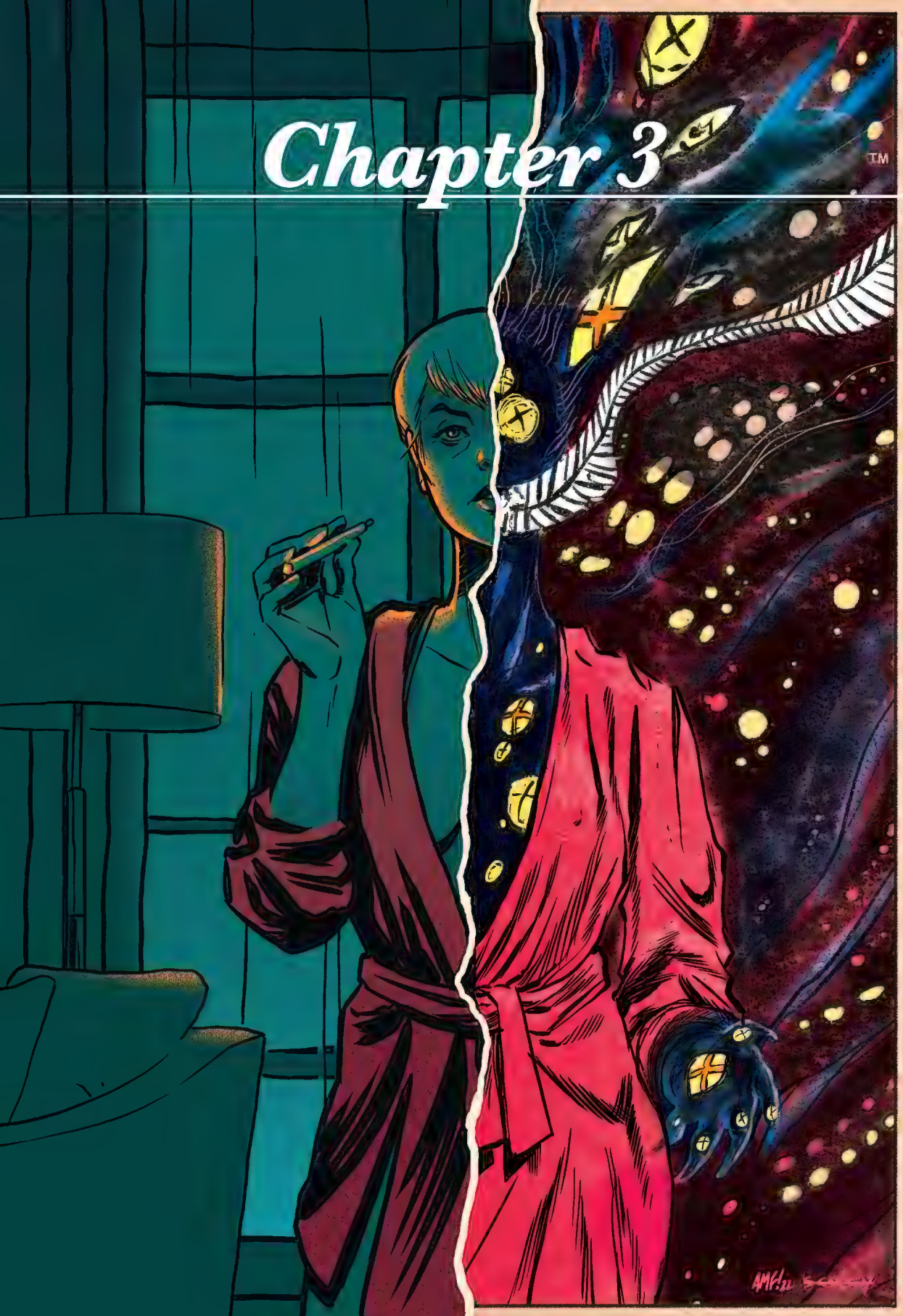
image
2
MARCH
$3.95
CROSSJACK
AND COMPANY
CRACKING
SPINES WITH
SHADOWHAWK
NAUCK REBER
PLUS!
It's BOOTLEG!

FARMINGTON, WE GOTTA SAY, WE LIKE THE WAY YOU GROW YOUR HEROES.
THAT'S WHY, AS PART OF DRAFTING CROSSJACK TO THIRD GEN...
WE'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE GROUNDBREAKING ON THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART 4TH GEN TRAINING FACILITY!
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GREAT STATE OF WISCONSIN...
WE'RE BRINGING THE FUTURE TO YOUR TOWN, AND JACK XAVER TO "HERO SCHOOL."
HOMETOWN HERO!
WOW.
THANKS, MR. CRUSADER.
I'M A BIG FAN. REALLY. THIS IS SO COOL--
THE LAST THING THIS TOWN NEEDS IS MORE DO-GOODERS, JACK!
INCOMING!

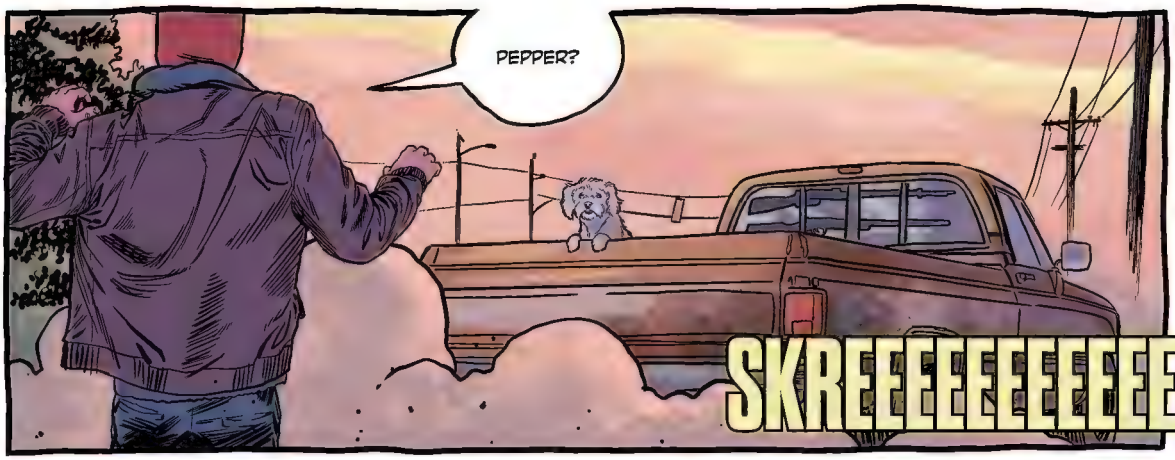
YOU'RE BREAKING GROUND?
HODAG'S GONNA BREAK NEON'S PRETTY FACE!
NEON! PUT DOWN A GLOW-GAS FIELD AND--
NO, I GOT IT.
GOOD! IT'S YOU I WANTED, 'JACK!
AW, 'DAG.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE FLIRTIN'!
WHICH, WHILE I APPRECIATE IT--
I'M A ONE-WOMAN TYPE A' GUY...
WHICH MEANS I DON'T GET AROUND!

--THE HECK?
THOK
TOK
TAK
WALUGH!
FWUMP
DID YOU SEE THAT, INGA?
BABY...
EVERYONE SAW IT.
YOU WERE INCREDIBLE!
HI. DAN CHAN.
THIRD GEN PUBLIC RELATIONS.
OH! HI! UH, SORRY ABOUT THAT--
NO, THAT WAS GREAT. THEY LOVED IT.
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO TAKE A SNAP POLL. I CAN TELL.

SO, HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING, WE GO RIGHT TO THE NATIONAL EXPOSURE.
BIG FIGHTS. BIG ACTION.
I MEAN, HE LOOKS SO GOOD DOING IT, RIGHT?
WHY NOT DO IT 'WIDESCREEN'?
FIRST, I'LL BOOK YOU A TEAM-UP.
SOMEONE EDGY TO BOOST YOUR URBAN STREET CRED.
JACK?
I THINK WE COULD GET SHADOWHAWK.
JACK?
WHAT ABOUT... US?
NEXT ISSUE:
FALLEN HEAVENS
PART 11 OF A 16-PART MEGA-EVENT!


Chapter 3

ARE YOU CROSS-JACK?
THE SUPER-HERO GUY?
NOPE.
OKAY. BUT...
THE DRVR APP SAYS "JACK XAVER."
YEAH. BUT I'M NOT HIM.
I'VE GOT A MASK.
CAN YOU STOP HERE?
OH.
OK.
WHATEVER.
FUCK CROSS-JACK.
WOHL TO WOHL: 7 STEPS TO A NEW YOU
RRF


PEPPER?
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEE

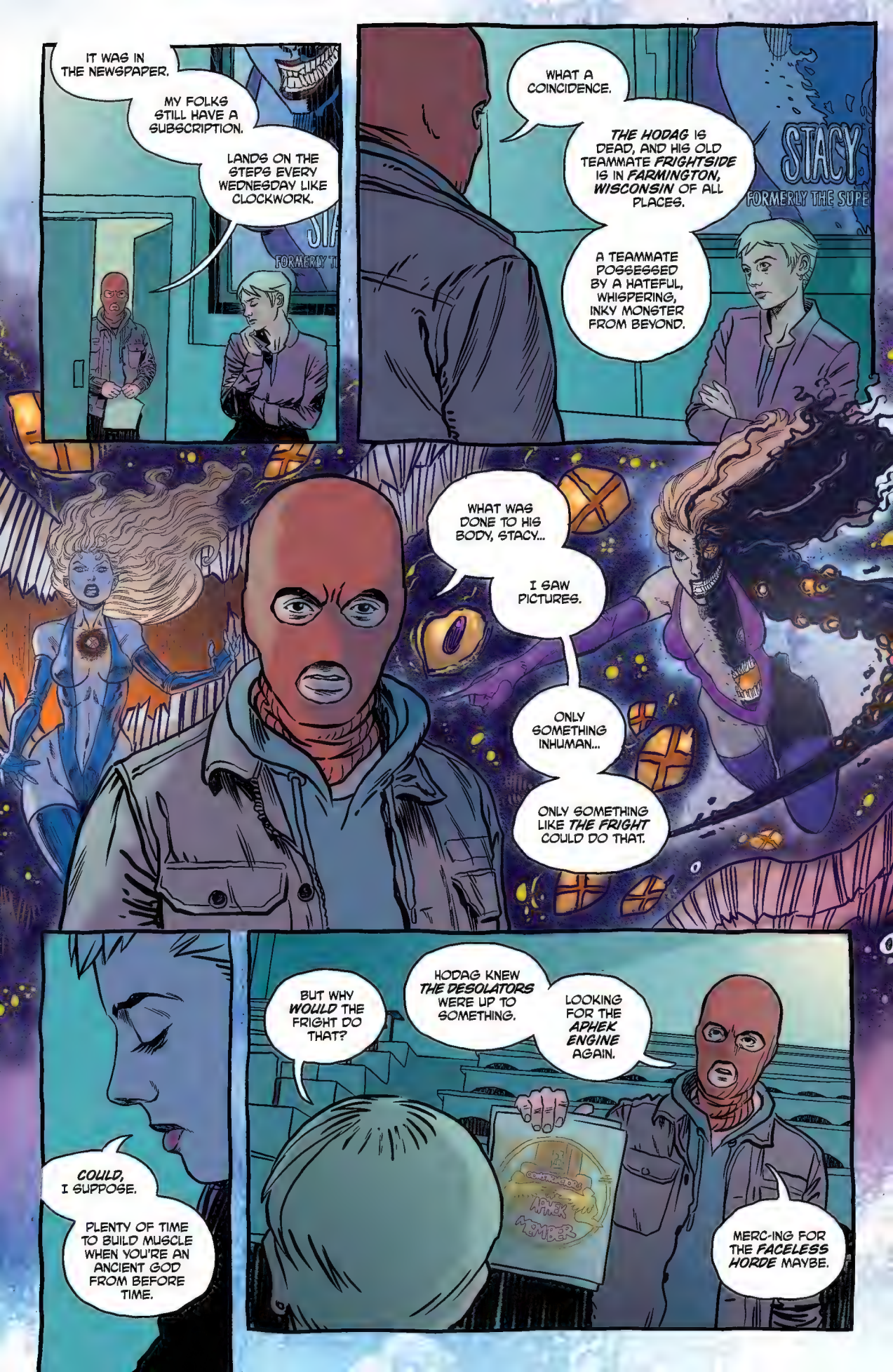
WAIT!

WHRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

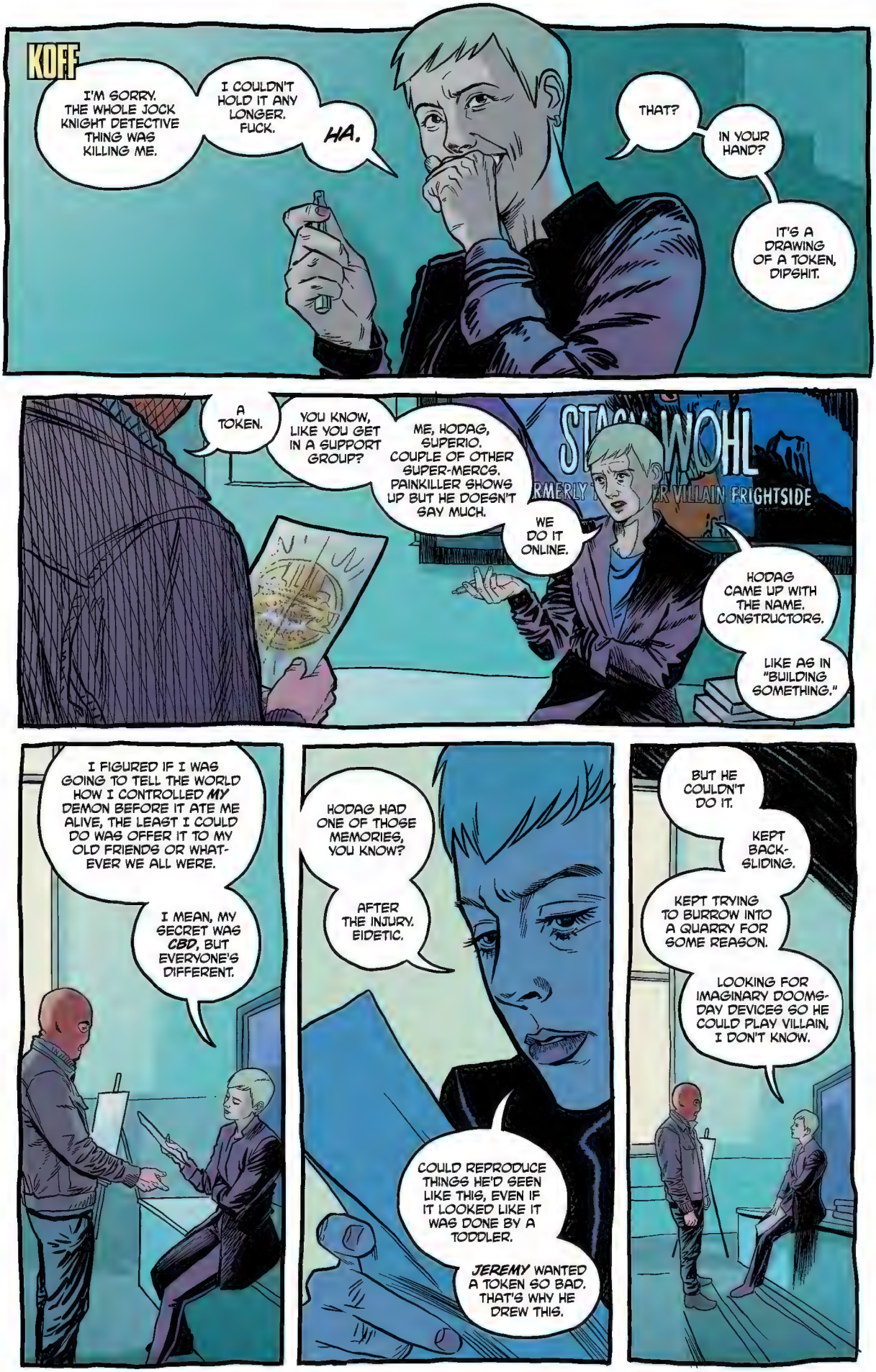
HELLO? HI?
CAN YOU WATCH MY DOG FOR A SECOND?

HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME EVERYWHERE LATELY.
OH. HA.
THANKS. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT, FATHER.
I'LL OWE YOU ONE. SERIOUSLY.

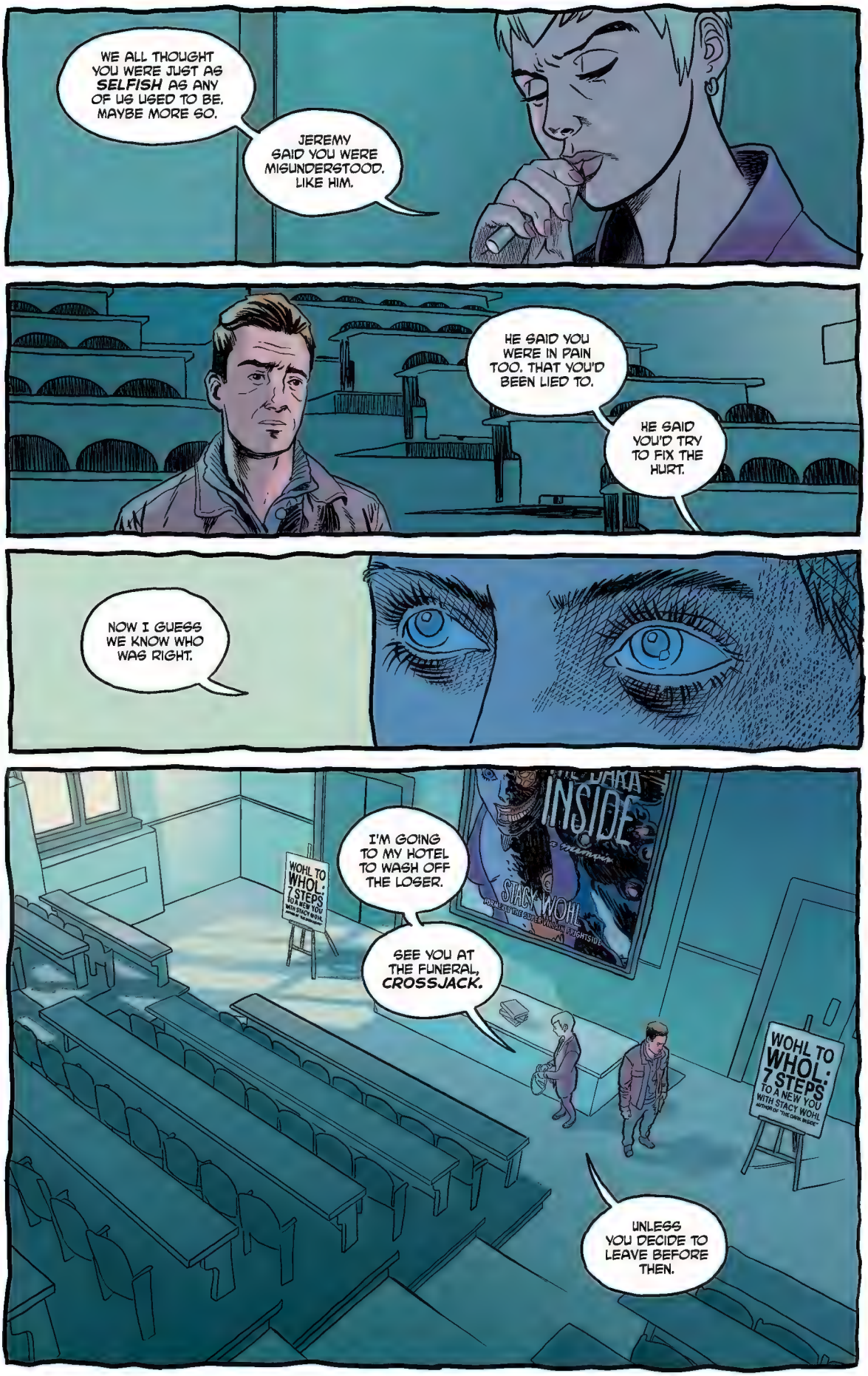
I JUST REALLY NEED TO SEE SOMEONE.
WOHL TO WOHL: 7 STEPS TO A NEW YOU
With STACY WOHL
Author of "THE DARK INSIDE"
THANK YOU, SO MUCH, MS. WOHL.
YOUR BOOK HELPED ME A LOT.
CALL ME STACY.
AND, LET THE BOOK HELP YOU WITH ABOUT TWENTY MORE POUNDS, OKAY?
FORMERLY THE
LAIN FRIGHTSIDE
I GUESS I SHOULD BE IMPRESSED RIGHT?
BIG FAMOUS CELEBRITY, JACK XAVER, COMING TO MY READING?
DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO MY NEWS-LETTER?


IT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER.
MY FOLKS STILL HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION.
LANDS ON THE STEPS EVERY WEDNESDAY LIKE CLOCKWORK.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
THE HODAG IS DEAD, AND HIS OLD TEAMMATE *FRIGHTSIDE* IS IN *FARMINGTON, WISCONSIN* OF ALL PLACES.
A TEAMMATE POSSESSED BY A HATEFUL, WHISPERING, INKY MONSTER FROM BEYOND.
STACY
FORMERLY THE SUPE
WHAT WAS DONE TO HIS BODY, STACY...
I SAW PICTURES.
ONLY SOMETHING INHUMAN...
ONLY SOMETHING LIKE *THE FRIGHT* COULD DO THAT.
BUT WHY *WOULD* THE FRIGHT DO THAT?
HODAG KNEW *THE DESOLATORS* WERE UP TO SOMETHING.
LOOKING FOR THE *APHEK ENGINE* AGAIN.
MERC-ING FOR THE *FACELESS HORDE* MAYBE.
COULD, I SUPPOSE.
PLENTY OF TIME TO BUILD MUSCLE WHEN YOU'RE AN ANCIENT GOD FROM BEFORE TIME.

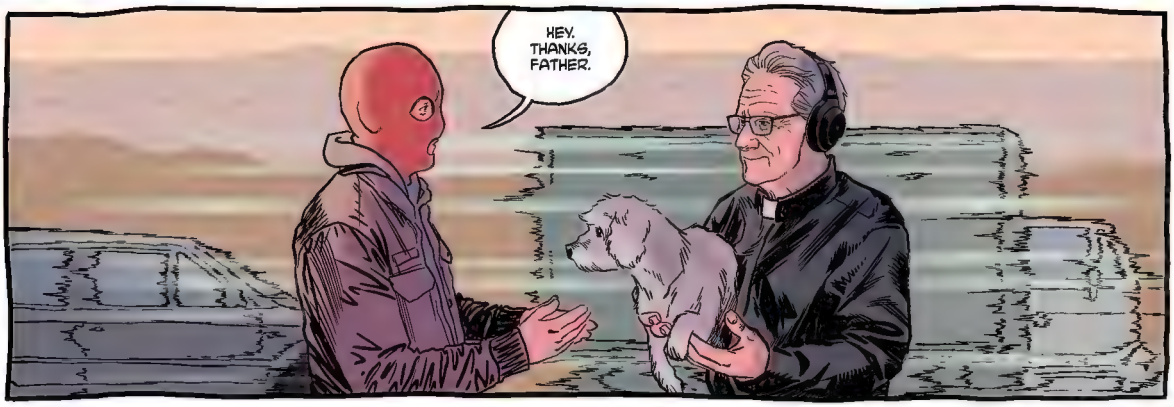
HE COULDN'T JOIN YOU BECAUSE OF HIS CONDITION, BUT HE KNEW.
AND THAT SAME CONDITION MEANT HE MIGHT TALK.
SO YOU LET YOUR FEAR OUT...
AND KILLED HIM.
CONSTRUCTORS OF ARHEK
HA.
THE SUPER VILLAIN
HAHAHAHA.
THE SUPER VILLAIN FRIGHTSIDE
HAHA HRN HRK
KOFF KOFF
I'M SORRY...

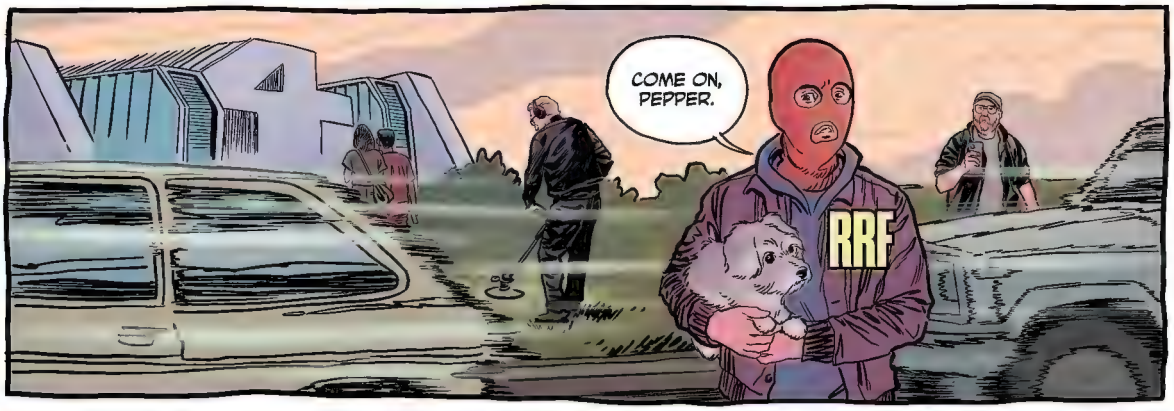

KOFF
I'M SORRY. THE WHOLE JOCK KNIGHT DETECTIVE THING WAS KILLING ME.
I COULDN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER. FUCK.
HA.
THAT?
IN YOUR HAND?
IT'S A DRAWING OF A TOKEN, DIPSHIT.
A TOKEN.
YOU KNOW, LIKE YOU GET IN A SUPPORT GROUP?
ME, HODAG, SUPERIO. COUPLE OF OTHER SUPER-MERCS. PAINKILLER SHOWS UP BUT HE DOESN'T SAY MUCH.
WE DO IT ONLINE.
HODAG CAME UP WITH THE NAME. CONSTRUCTORS.
LIKE AS IN "BUILDING SOMETHING."
I FIGURED IF I WAS GOING TO TELL THE WORLD HOW I CONTROLLED MY DEMON BEFORE IT ATE ME ALIVE, THE LEAST I COULD DO WAS OFFER IT TO MY OLD FRIENDS OR WHATEVER WE ALL WERE.
I MEAN, MY SECRET WAS CBD, BUT EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT.
HODAG HAD ONE OF THOSE MEMORIES, YOU KNOW?
AFTER THE INJURY. EIDETIC.
COULD REPRODUCE THINGS HE'D SEEN LIKE THIS, EVEN IF IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS DONE BY A TODDLER.
JEREMY WANTED A TOKEN SO BAD. THAT'S WHY HE DREW THIS.
BUT HE COULDN'T DO IT.
KEPT BACK-SLIDING.
KEPT TRYING TO BURROW INTO A QUARRY FOR SOME REASON.
LOOKING FOR IMAGINARY DOOMSDAY DEVICES SO HE COULD PLAY VILLAIN, I DON'T KNOW.

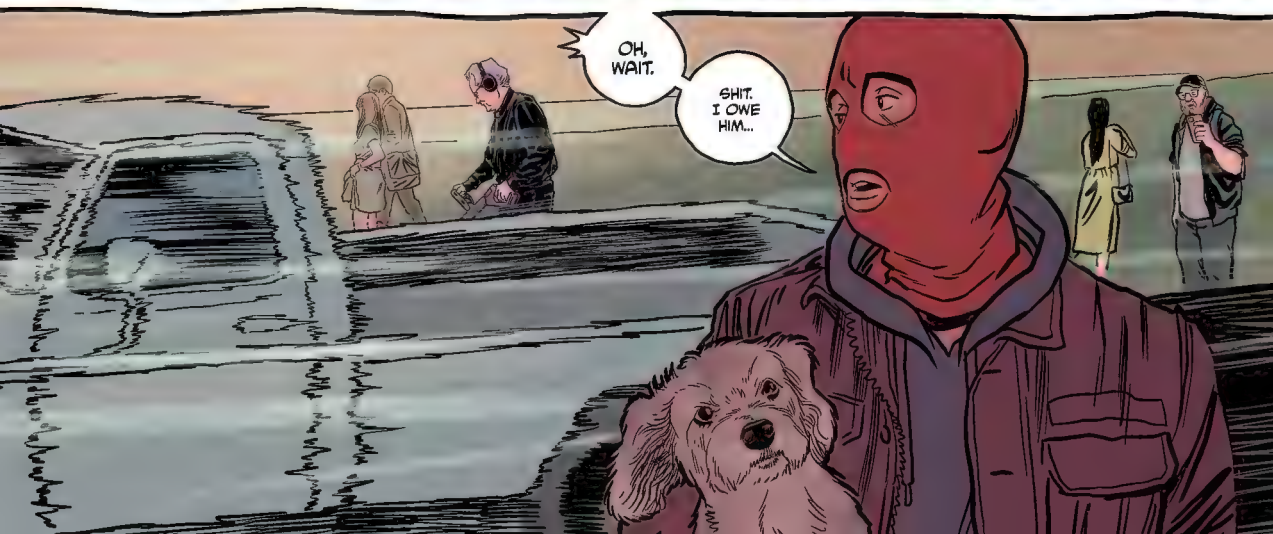
I WAS HIS SPONSOR.
I SCHEDULED A SIGNING HERE ON THE LAST LEG OF MY TOUR SO I COULD HELP HIM.
BUT I DIDN'T SEE IT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
NOW I'M JUST STAYING FOR THE FUNERAL.
I MEAN, I SOLD A GODDAMN MILLION AND A HALF BOOKS, JACK.
WHY THE HELL ELSE WOULD I COME TO THIS DEAD-END TOWN?
JEREMY. DID...
DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME IN THOSE MEETINGS?
YEAH. YEAH I GUESS.
YOU WEREN'T REAL POPULAR AMONG THE OTHER CONSTRUCTORS.
MAYBE MORE SO THAN CRUSADER OR CUTTING EDGE, BUT STILL...


WE ALL THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST AS SELFISH AS ANY OF US USED TO BE. MAYBE MORE SO.
JEREMY SAID YOU WERE MISUNDERSTOOD. LIKE HIM.
HE SAID YOU WERE IN PAIN TOO. THAT YOU'D BEEN LIED TO.
HE SAID YOU'D TRY TO FIX THE HURT.
NOW I GUESS WE KNOW WHO WAS RIGHT.
I'M GOING TO MY HOTEL TO WASH OFF THE LOSER.
SEE YOU AT THE FUNERAL, CROSSJACK.
UNLESS YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE BEFORE THEN.
WOHL TO WHOL: 7 STEPS TO A NEW YOU WITH STACY WOHL
INSIDE
STACY WOHL

HEY MAN!
YOU GET THE BIG BUCK N' SO?
SIGH.

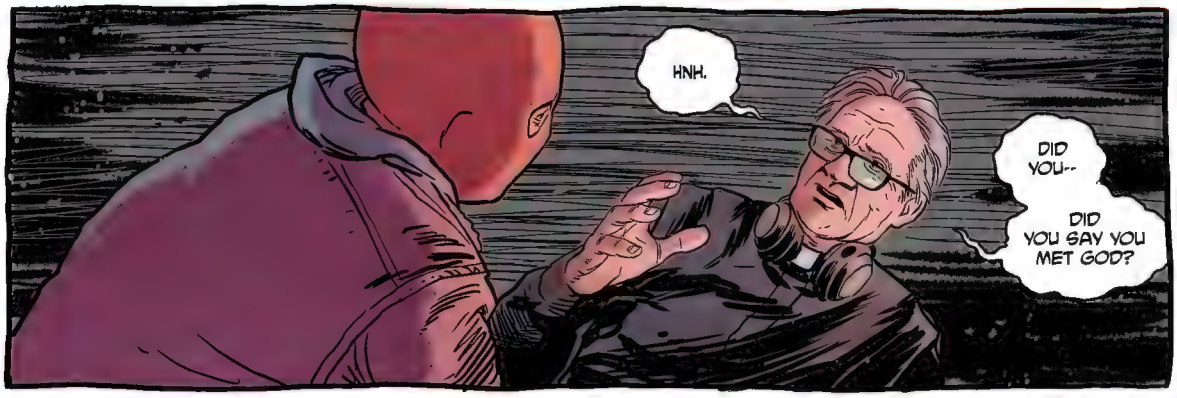

HEY. THANKS, FATHER.


COME ON, PEPPER.
RRF

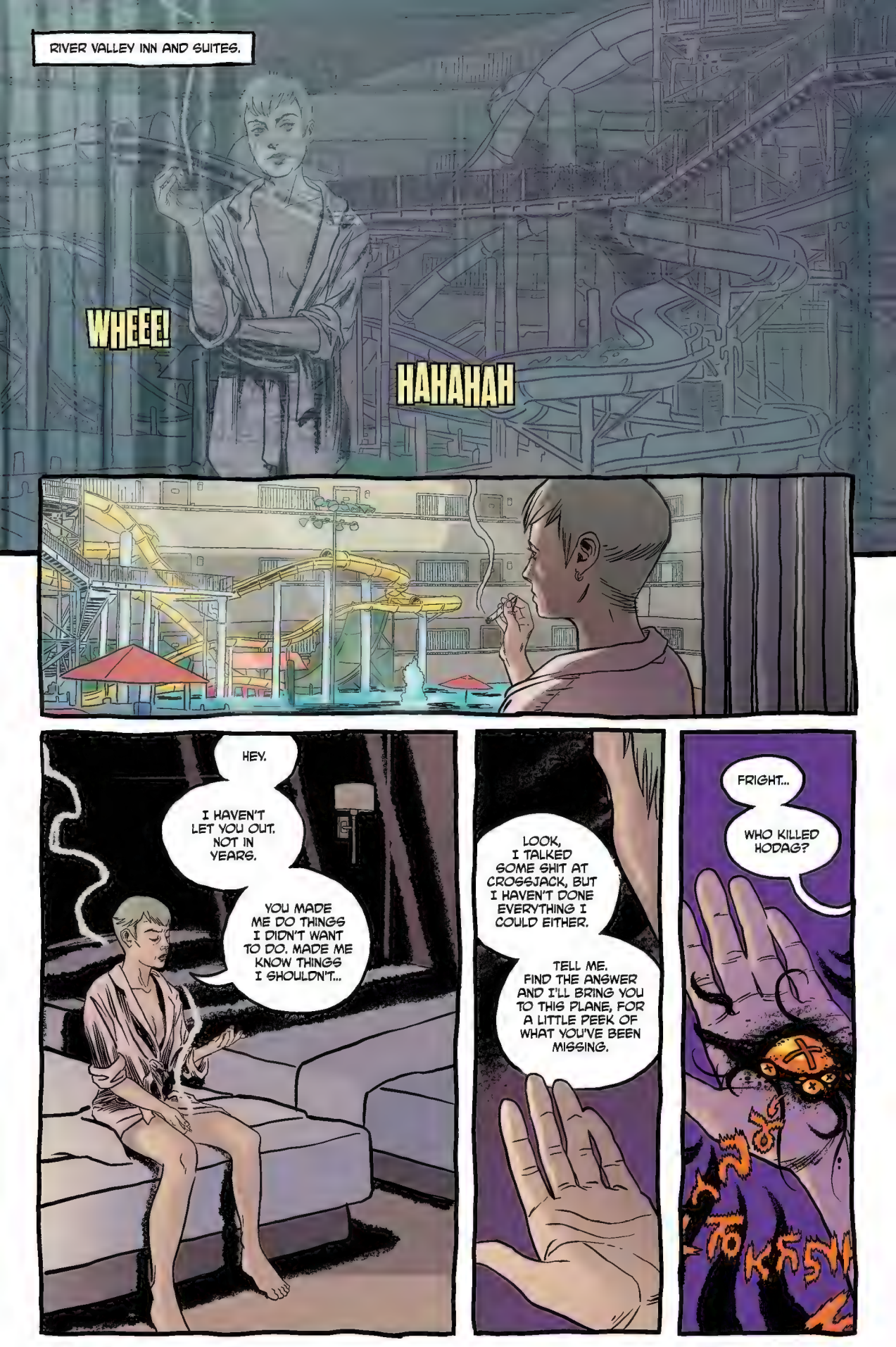

OH, WAIT.
SHIT. I OWE HIM...

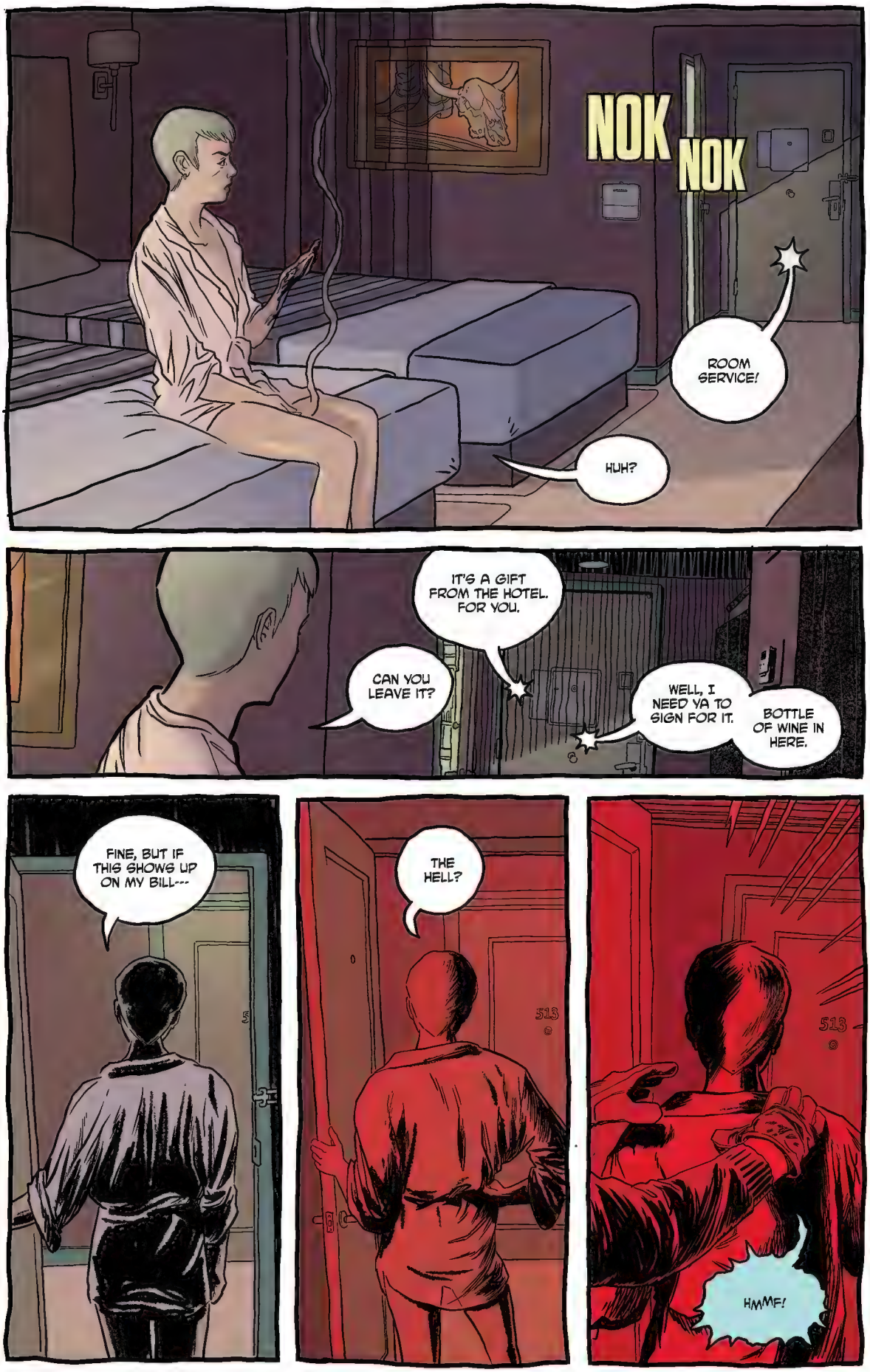
HEY! FATHER!
HEY! JUST SO YOU KNOW!
HMH?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
GOD DOES EXIST!
YEAH! YEAH, I MET HIM!
DURING THE "FALLEN HEAVENS" EVENT.
GOD, LIKE, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO?
HE'S UM...
I MEAN, HE'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D IMAGINE.
HE'S LIKE THIS WEIRD ANDROID THING MADE OUT OF GOLD AND PLATINUM. AND HE'S, WELL...
HE EATS SOULS.
BUT HE'S REAL!
IF YOU EVER HAD ANY DOUBTS...
HUH?
YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, IS WHAT I'M SAYING--
I'M SORRY, I COULDN'T HEAR--
OH GOD!
PEPPER!
STAY!
SKREEEEEEEEE

I
GOT
YOU
FATHER!


HNH.
DID YOU--
DID YOU SAY YOU MET GOD?

UM.
NO. SORRY.
YOU MUSTA MISHEARD ME.


RIVER VALLEY INN AND SUITES.
WHEEE!
HAHAHAH
HEY.
I HAVEN'T LET YOU OUT. NOT IN YEARS.
YOU MADE ME DO THINGS I DIDN'T WANT TO DO. MADE ME KNOW THINGS I SHOULDN'T...
LOOK, I TALKED SOME SHIT AT CROSSJACK, BUT I HAVEN'T DONE EVERYTHING I COULD EITHER.
TELL ME. FIND THE ANSWER AND I'LL BRING YOU TO THIS PLANE, FOR A LITTLE PEEK OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING.
FRIGHT...
WHO KILLED HODAG?


NOK NOK
ROOM SERVICE!
HUH?
IT'S A GIFT FROM THE HOTEL. FOR YOU.
CAN YOU LEAVE IT?
WELL, I NEED YA TO SIGN FOR IT.
BOTTLE OF WINE IN HERE.
FINE, BUT IF THIS SHOWS UP ON MY BILL---
THE HELL?
513
513
HMMF!

MPFF!
WHOOM
I READ YER BOOK.
WELL, SOME OF IT ANYWAY. THE PARTS I WAS SUPPOSED TO.
FUHH...
REAL INTERESTING. IF I UNDERSTOOD, THAT WASN'T LIKE, A METAPHOR, RIGHT?
LIKE THAT WASN'T JUST PRETTY TALK.
SPLSH
WHEN YOU GET SCARED, THE MONSTER INSIDE GETS STRONGER.
A REAL ONE. IT GETS MORE POWERFUL.
AND IT TRIES TO GET OUT.
BLLRRB!

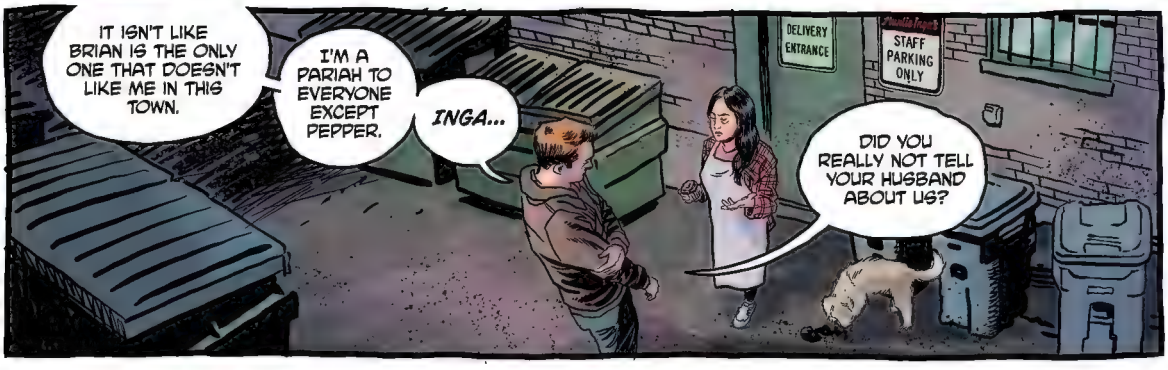
SO, THAT MUST LEAVE YOU WITH A QUESTION, RIGHT?
I MEAN, A PRETTY TERRIBLE ONE.
CUZ, IF YOU'RE DYING.
I MEAN, SCARED FOR YOUR LIFE CUZ IT MIGHT JUST END ANY SECOND NOW.
WHEEE!
CAN YOU REALLY DEFEND YOURSELF?
CAN YOU FIGHT BACK ALL THE WAY?
HAHAHAH
OR WOULD THAT RISK UNLEASHING YOUR FRIGHT ON THE WHOLE WORLD?

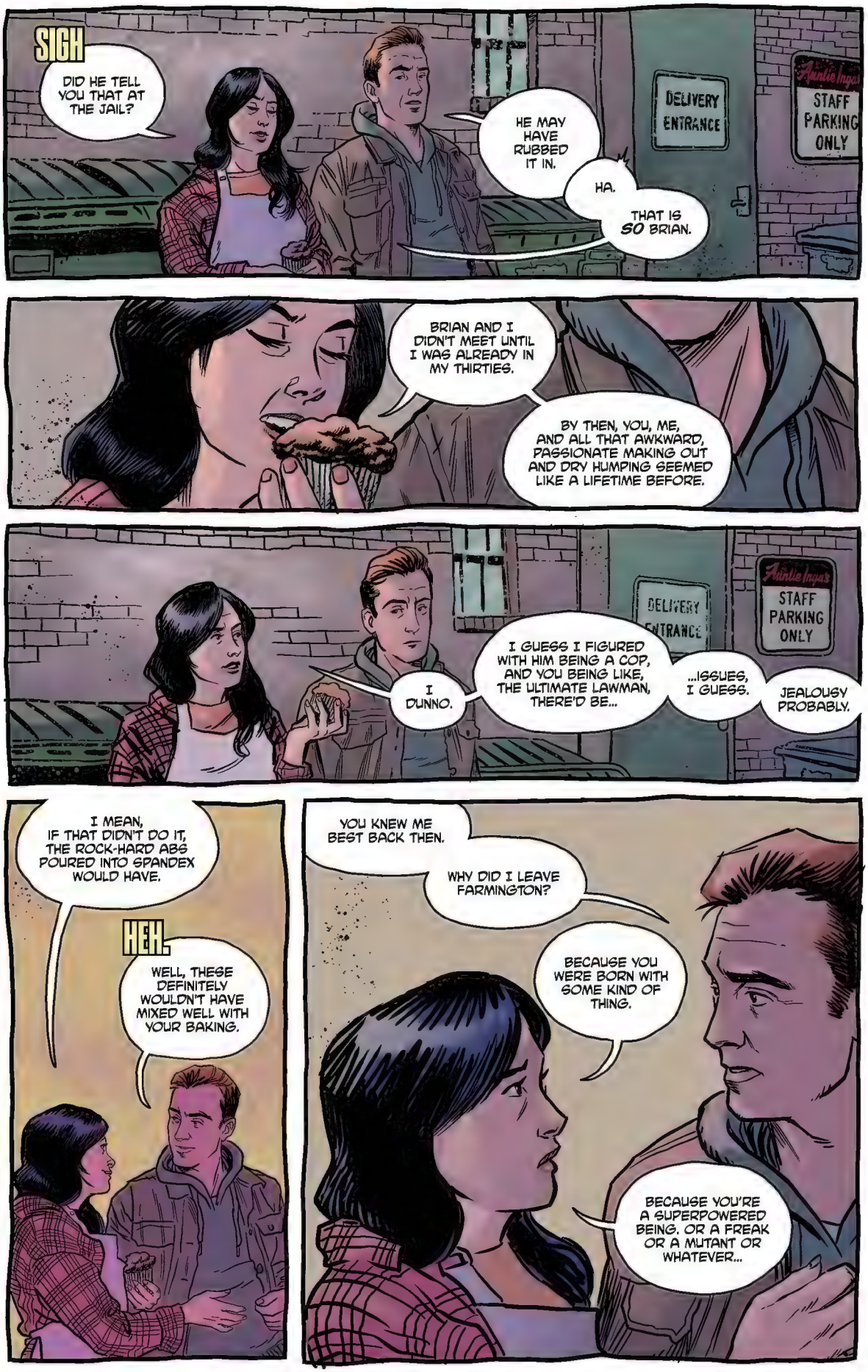
DELIVERY ENTRANCE
STAFF PARKING ONLY

JACK?
INGA. OH, HEY!
JUST, UH...
HANGING OUT.

AREN'T YOU WARM?
IT'S SPRING.
OH, THIS SWEAT IS JUST ANGST FROM WATCHING ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL MUFFING GO TO WASTE.

WE'RE TRAINING EMPLOYEES FOR THE NEW SHOPS.
TEST BATCHES WEREN'T UP TO MY STANDARDS.
UP TO YOURS THOUGH, HUH?
JUST UM...
CHECKING IT. FOR PEPPER, Y'KNOW?
LOOK, YOU AND PEPPER CAN COME IN.
MY HUSBAND ISN'T HERE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE...

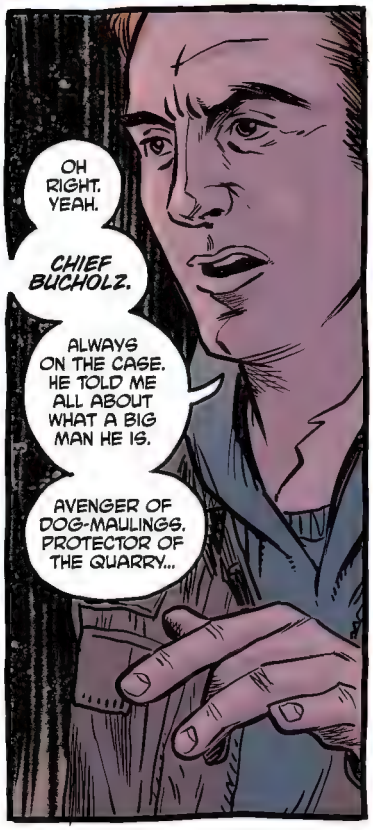

IT ISN'T LIKE BRIAN IS THE ONLY ONE THAT DOESN'T LIKE ME IN THIS TOWN.
I'M A PARIAH TO EVERYONE EXCEPT PEPPER.
INGA...
DELIVERY ENTRANCE
STAFF PARKING ONLY
DID YOU REALLY NOT TELL YOUR HUSBAND ABOUT US?


SIGH
DID HE TELL YOU THAT AT THE JAIL?
HE MAY HAVE RUBBED IT IN.
HA.
THAT IS SO BRIAN.
DELIVERY ENTRANCE
Auntie Inga's
STAFF PARKING ONLY
BRIAN AND I DIDN'T MEET UNTIL I WAS ALREADY IN MY THIRTIES.
BY THEN, YOU, ME, AND ALL THAT AWKWARD, PASSIONATE MAKING OUT AND DRY HUMPING SEEMED LIKE A LIFETIME BEFORE.
I DUNNO.
I GUESS I FIGURED WITH HIM BEING A COP, AND YOU BEING LIKE, THE ULTIMATE LAWMAN, THERE'D BE...
...ISSUES, I GUESS.
JEALOUSY PROBABLY.
I MEAN, IF THAT DIDN'T DO IT, THE ROCK-HARD ABS POURED INTO SPANDEX WOULD HAVE.
HEH.
WELL, THESE DEFINITELY WOULDN'T HAVE MIXED WELL WITH YOUR BAKING.
YOU KNEW ME BEST BACK THEN.
WHY DID I LEAVE FARMINGTON?
BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN WITH SOME KIND OF THING.
BECAUSE YOU'RE A SUPERPOWERED BEING. OR A FREAK OR A MUTANT OR WHATEVER...

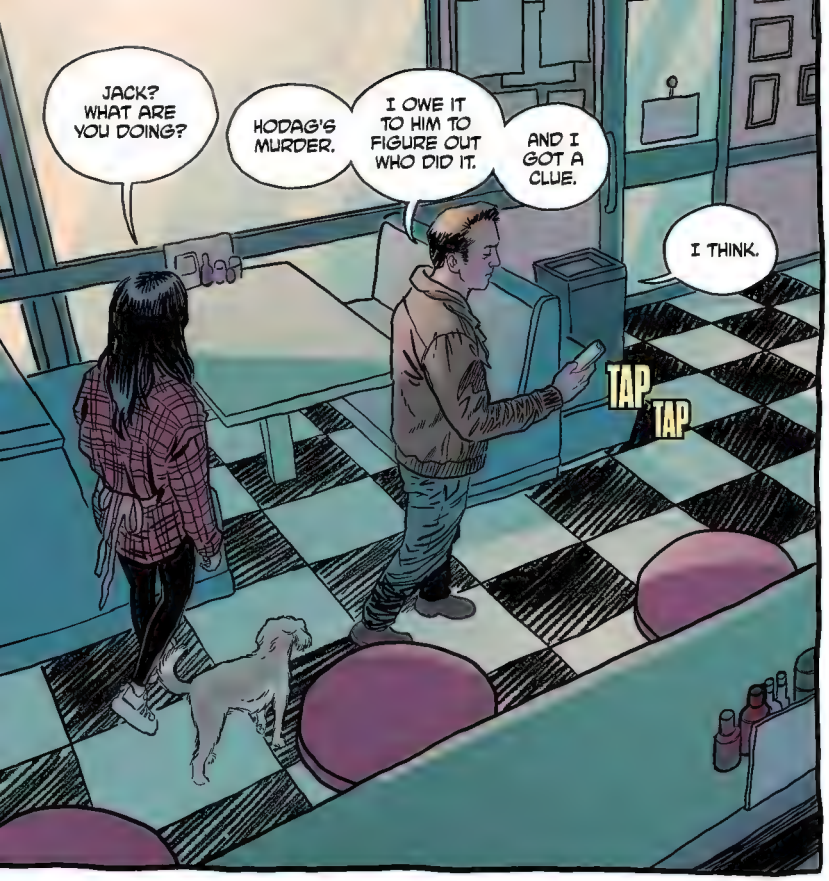
A THING THAT MEANS WHATEVER YOU TOUCH, YOU CAN SEE THE POTENTIAL IN IT...
HOW BEST TO USE IT, HOW TO HOLD IT, WHERE TO PUT IT.
AND SURE, YOU MOSTLY USE IT FOR SHIELDS AND NUNCHUCKS AND LIKE...
ESCRIMA STICKS...
BUT I ALWAYS FIGURED THAT MUST ALSO MAKE A PLACE LIKE FARMINGTON A HARD PLACE TO BE FOR YOU.
YOU CAN ONLY GO SO FAR HERE.
CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH, FOR YOURSELF OR FOR ANYONE ELSE, IF THAT'S YOUR THING.
YOU COULD SEE THAT?
I COULD, YEAH.
MAYBE NOT AS CLEARLY, BECAUSE I'M NOT AN SPB OR A FREAK OR A MUTANT...
BUT I HAVE A SUPERPOWER TOO, JACK.
REALLY.
YEAH.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE I AM, I CAN *FORGE* WHATEVER I TOUCH INTO WHAT *I WANT IT TO BE.*

HMH?

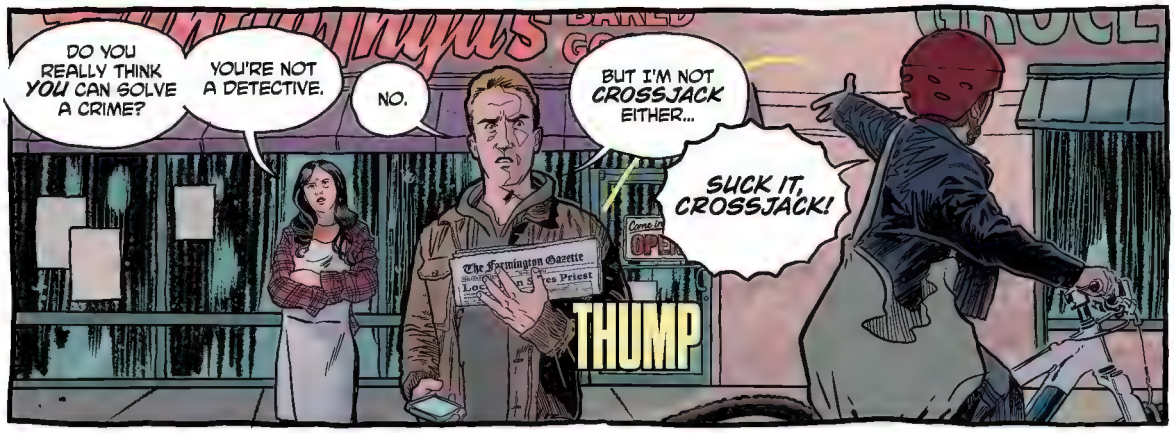
JACK! JESUS!
WHAT THE FUCK?!
OH...SHIT. I THOUGHT...
I'M SORRY!
YOU THOUGHT?
I HAVE KIDS!
I'M MARRIED!


OH RIGHT. YEAH.
CHIEF BUCHOLZ.
ALWAYS ON THE CASE. HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT WHAT A BIG MAN HE IS.
AVENGER OF DOG-MAULINGS. PROTECTOR OF THE QUARRY...

THE QUARRY.
DELIVERY ENTRANCE

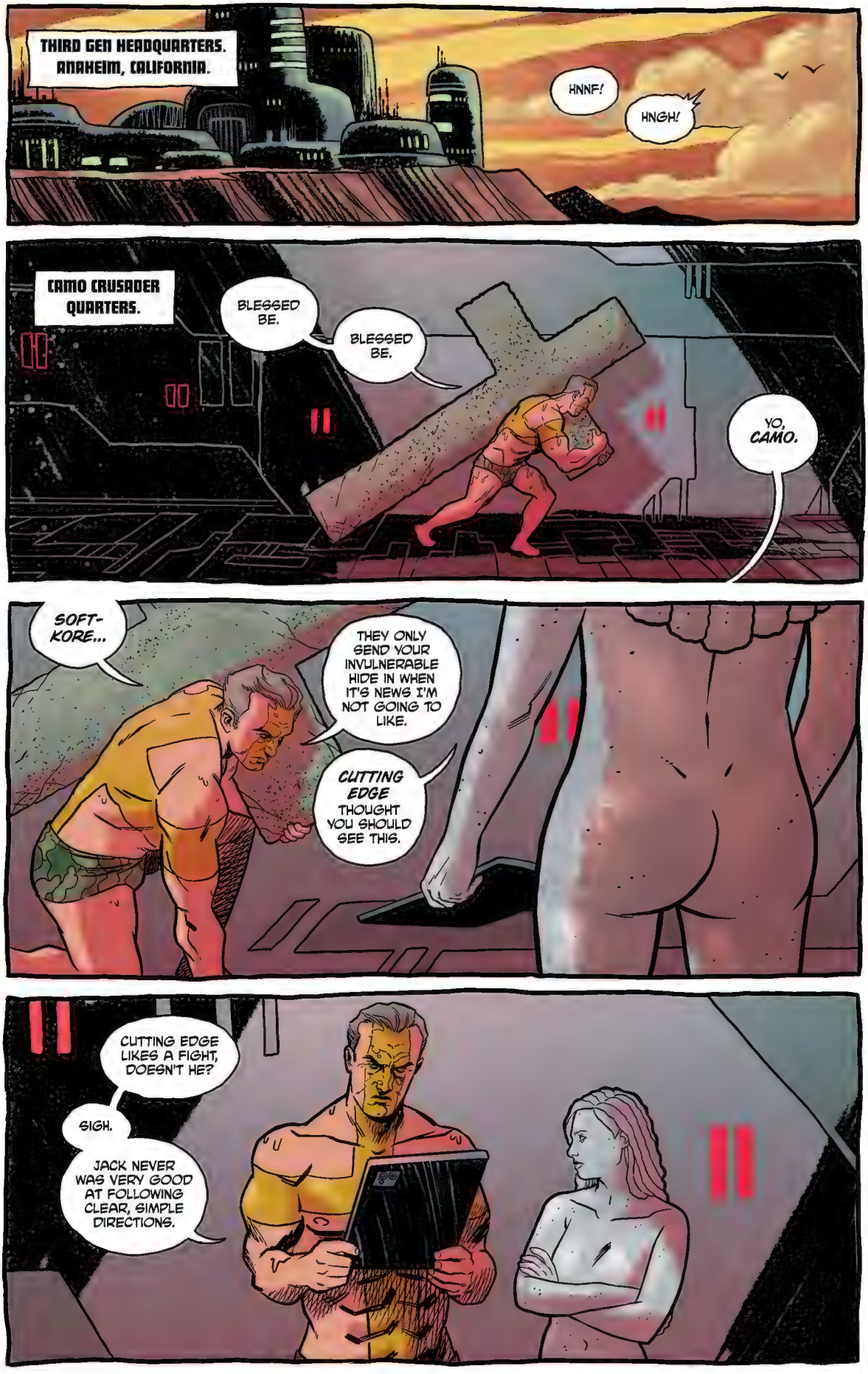

JACK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HODAG'S MURDER.
I OWE IT TO HIM TO FIGURE OUT WHO DID IT.
AND I GOT A CLUE.
I THINK.
TAP
TAP

BAKED GOODS
JACK. COME ON.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? BRIAN KNOWS YOU DIDN'T DO IT.
I VOUCHED FOR YOU.
TAP
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.


DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SOLVE A CRIME?
YOU'RE NOT A DETECTIVE.
NO.
BUT I'M NOT CROSSJACK EITHER...
SUCK IT, CROSSJACK!
The Farmington Gazette
THUMP

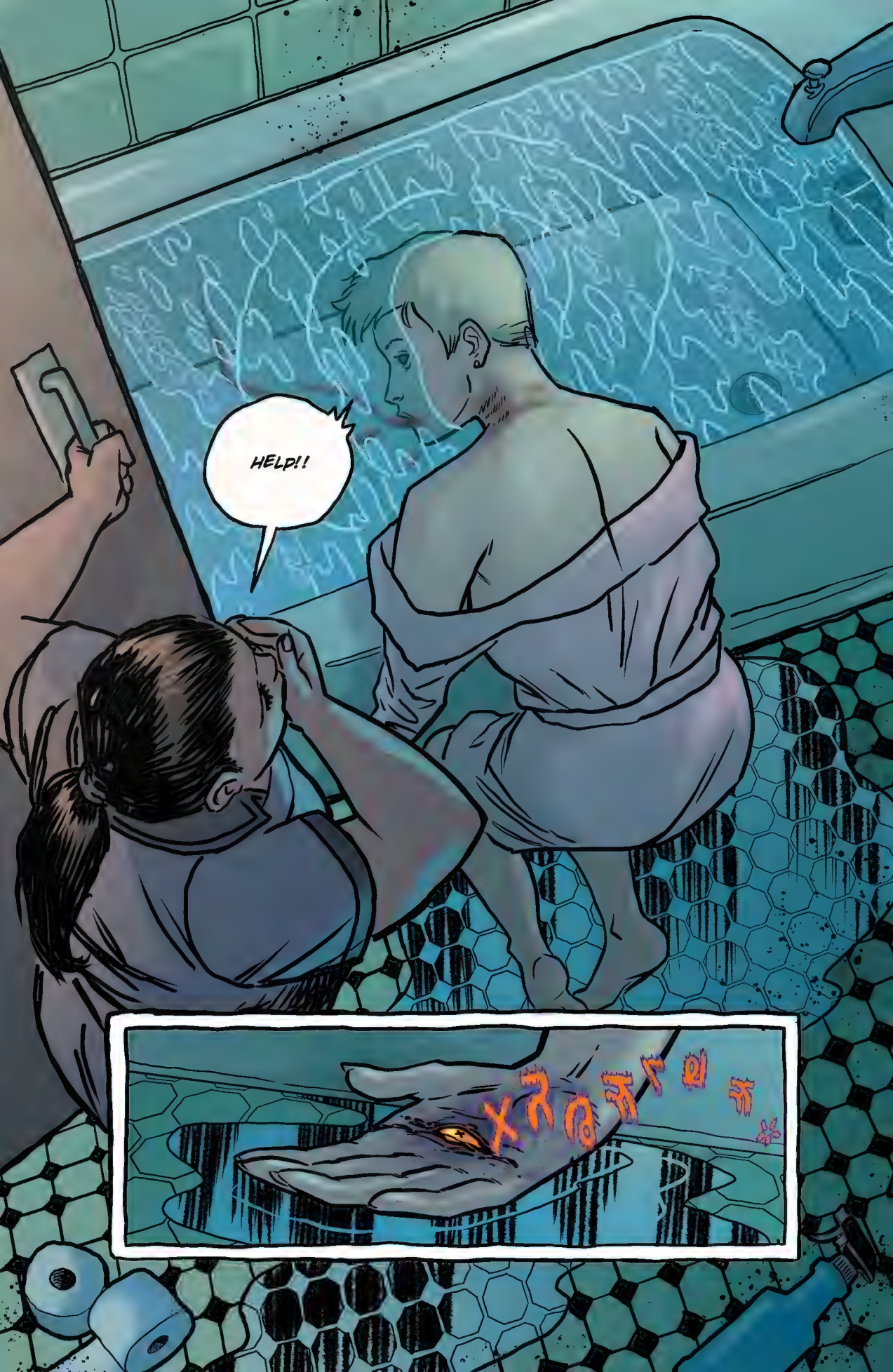
GOD-DAMMIT.

JACK...
I HAVE TO GO.
HEY MAN. EXTRA CHARGE FOR THE DOG.
RRF


THIRD GEN HEADQUARTERS.
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA.
HNNF!
HNGH!
CAMO CRUSADER QUARTERS.
BLESSED BE.
BLESSED BE.
YO, CAMO.
SOFT-KORE...
THEY ONLY SEND YOUR INVULNERABLE HIDE IN WHEN IT'S NEWS I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE.
CUTTING EDGE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE THIS.
CUTTING EDGE LIKES A FIGHT, DOESN'T HE?
SIGH.
JACK NEVER WAS VERY GOOD AT FOLLOWING CLEAR, SIMPLE DIRECTIONS.

HAVE THE TEAM HANG BACK.
I'M GOING TO GO HAVE A TALK WITH THIS "LOCAL MAN."
The Farmington Gazette
ONLINE EDITION
MARCH 5, 2023
Local Man Saves Priest
K. Olsen for the Gazette

River Valley
INN AND SUITES
WEEKDAY
INDOOR
WATERPARK
DISCOUNTS
River Valley
INN AND SUITES
WHEEEE!
HAHAHA
AHAHAHAHA!
AH!
NO!
SPLSH
AIIIEEEEEEEEEE
AH!!
AHHH!!!
HELP!
HELP!!


HELP!!

Gettelman
image
3
$3.99
LOCAL MAN
STRIKEFILE
ENTER:
THE DESOLATORS

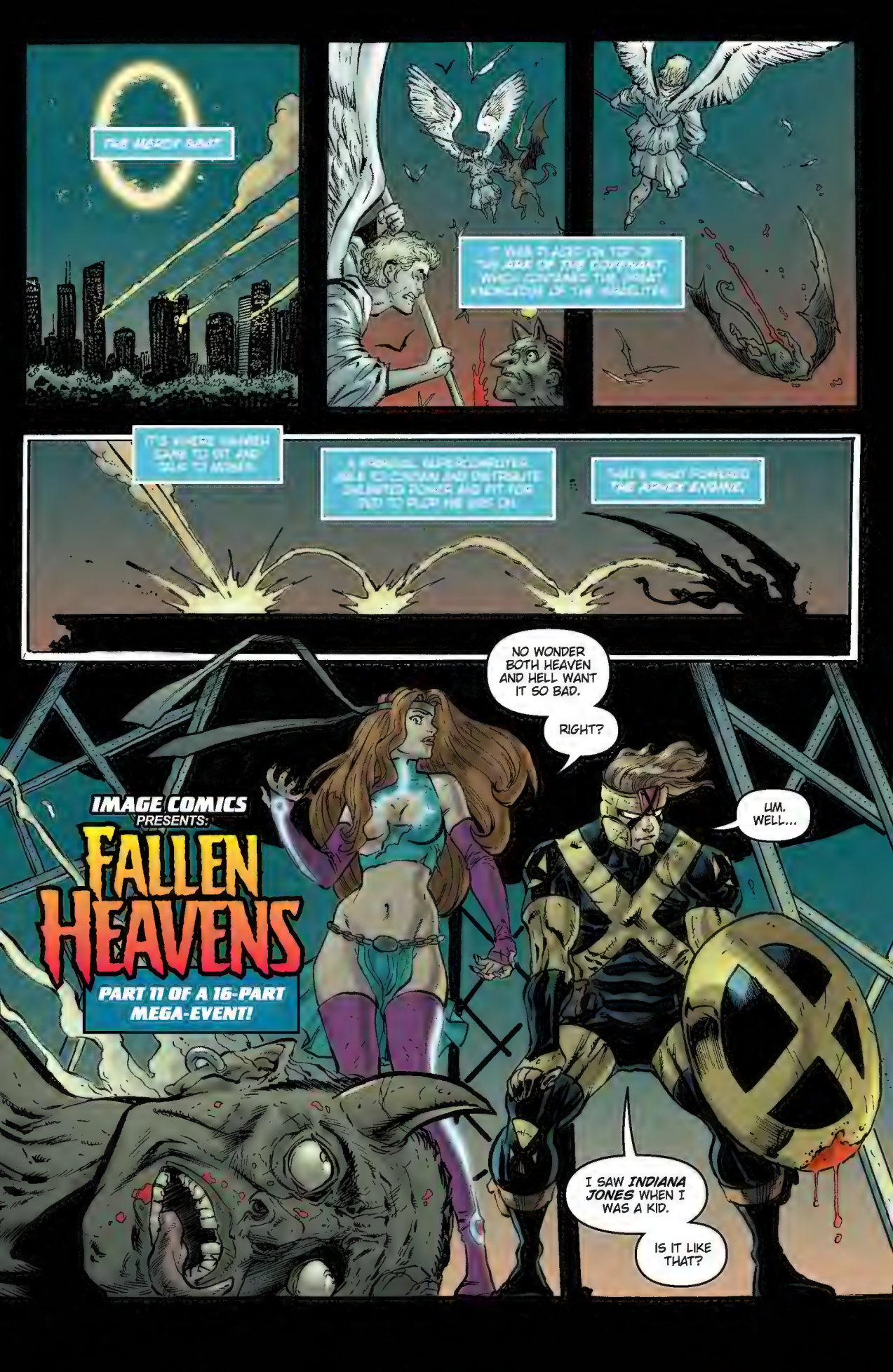


IMAGE COMICS
PRESENTS:
FALLEN HEAVENS
PART 11 OF A 16-PART MEGA-EVENT!
NO WONDER BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL WANT IT SO BAD.
RIGHT?
UM. WELL...
I SAW INDIANA JONES WHEN I WAS A KID.
IS IT LIKE THAT?

SIGH.
COUNTRY BOY.
DIDN'T YOU GROW UP ON A HIPPIE COMMUNE?
YEAH.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID THERE BESIDES GROW OUR OWN FOOD AND LIVE OFF THE LAND?
WE READ. A LOT MORE THAN AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS APPARENTLY.
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE RELIGIONS I COULD HAVE STUDIED IF THE CIA HADN'T DECIDED TO DUMP SPACE FOG ON US.
WOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IS IN ON THIS FIGHT.
IS THAT THE LIBERTY LORDS?
I CAN NEVER REMEMBER ALL THOSE OLD GUY TEAMS. ALLIED FORCE MAYBE?
THAT'S DEFINITELY A SUPERBEAST. DAMN, YOU KNOW IT'S BAD WHEN THE MONSTER GUYS SHOW UP.
YOU KNOW WHAT I NOTICED, CROSSJACK?
YOU NEVER LOOK AT ME.
WHAT? THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I MEAN, I CATCH YOU LOOKING AT ME WHEN I WALK AWAY. BUT YOU NEVER LOOK AT ME.
WELL, Y'KNOW. THE COSTUME.
IT DISTRACTS FROM YOU.

YOU GREW UP IN A SOCIETY BUILT ON RULES LAID DOWN BY PURITANS AND WITCHBURNERS.
I GREW UP FREE, AND NAKED IN PARADISE.
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO HAVE AS MUCH SKIN EXPOSED AS POSSIBLE TO ABSORB LIGHT.
Harlot--ghk!
ZAK
BESIDES, THIS SUIT ALWAYS GIVES ME A SPLIT-SECOND LEAD, ESPECIALLY ON A CERTAIN KIND OF GUY.
WELL, YOU DO HAVE SOME PRACTICE WITH THOSE "CERTAIN KIND OF GUYS."
HRRAH!
YOU LOOKED AROUND RIGHT AFTER YOU SAID THAT, ALL WIDE-EYED AND NERVOUS.
THIS IS ABOUT *CRUSADER*.
ZAK
YOU'RE AFRAID OF HIM.
WELL, SURE. WHO WOULDN'T BE?

"THE GUY LITERALLY WALKED INTO HELL TO FIGHT SATAN."
"HE'S THE ONLY ONE *PIOUS* ENOUGH TO EVEN TAKE THE SEAT BACK FROM THE *DEVIL*."
"LIKE, CAPITAL *THE*, CAPITAL *D*."
HE *IS* SCARY. AND...UNPREDICT-ABLE.
TO YOU MAYBE.
TO ME, HE'S AN OPEN BOOK.
HE LIKES YOU.
IT'S WHY HE BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOUR OLD BAD GUY.
HE WANTS YOU TO LIKE HIM.
AND HE WANTS YOU TO LIKE *ME*.

ERICA... YOU'RE MARRIED.
GOD IS OFF HIS SEAT, AND HELL IS ON THE EARTH, JACK.
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO CARE ABOUT THE RULES.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SCREECH
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
WARNING
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED
SECURITY FENCE
PEPPER!!
NO!
BUDDY, TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO ONCE WENT TOE TO TOE WITH VOLTA.
YOU DO NOT WANT TO TINKLE ON THAT FENCE.
THAT WOMAN DID NOT--
OH, GODDAMMIT.
RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN

RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON

WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE

...

TSSS

WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE THE 80S.

POLICE CHIEF MENTIONED HE'D SEEN LIGHTS IN THE SKY HERE.

FRIGHTSIDE SAID HODAG WAS OBSESSED WITH IT...

THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KIND OF SECRET VILLAIN LAIR OR...

WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER, KIDS WOULD COME HERE TO SHOOT GUNS AND DO DRUGS.

DEALERS CAME HERE TOO.

I BUSTED THEM ALL AS *CROSSJACK*.

...QUALITY OF COPS IN THIS TOWN HAS GONE WAY DOWN SINCE I LEFT.

SO, WHAT IF THE DEALERS ARE BACK?

WHAT IF HODAG SAW SOMETHING HE SHOULDN'T?

WHAT IF HE INTERRUPTED A "SPECIAL DELIVERY?"

YOU BEEN TALKING TO THAT DOG LONG?

WHAT?!
NO...
MAYBE YOU MISSED IT.
STACY WOHL, FORMERLY KNOWN AS FRIGHTSIDE, FOUND DROWNED IN HER HOTEL ROOM.
TIME OF DEATH ABOUT TEN AM THIS MORNING.
AND...
TOSS
STREEETCH
WEIRD, RIGHT?
The Farmington Gazette
MARCH 5, 2023
Local Man Saves Priest
R. Olsen for the Gazette
THIS GUY "LOCAL MAN" WAS THERE AT THE EXACT SAME TIME.
SO, ANOTHER FORMER SUPERVILLAIN IS DEAD...
AND HERE YOU ARE WITHOUT MY WIFE TO VOUCH FOR YOU THIS TIME.
THIS ISN'T ME.
ARE YOU FUCKING WITH ME?
A HUNTING MASK ISN'T--
YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME COAT RIGHT NOW!
YOU CAN'T--
GAH!
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED

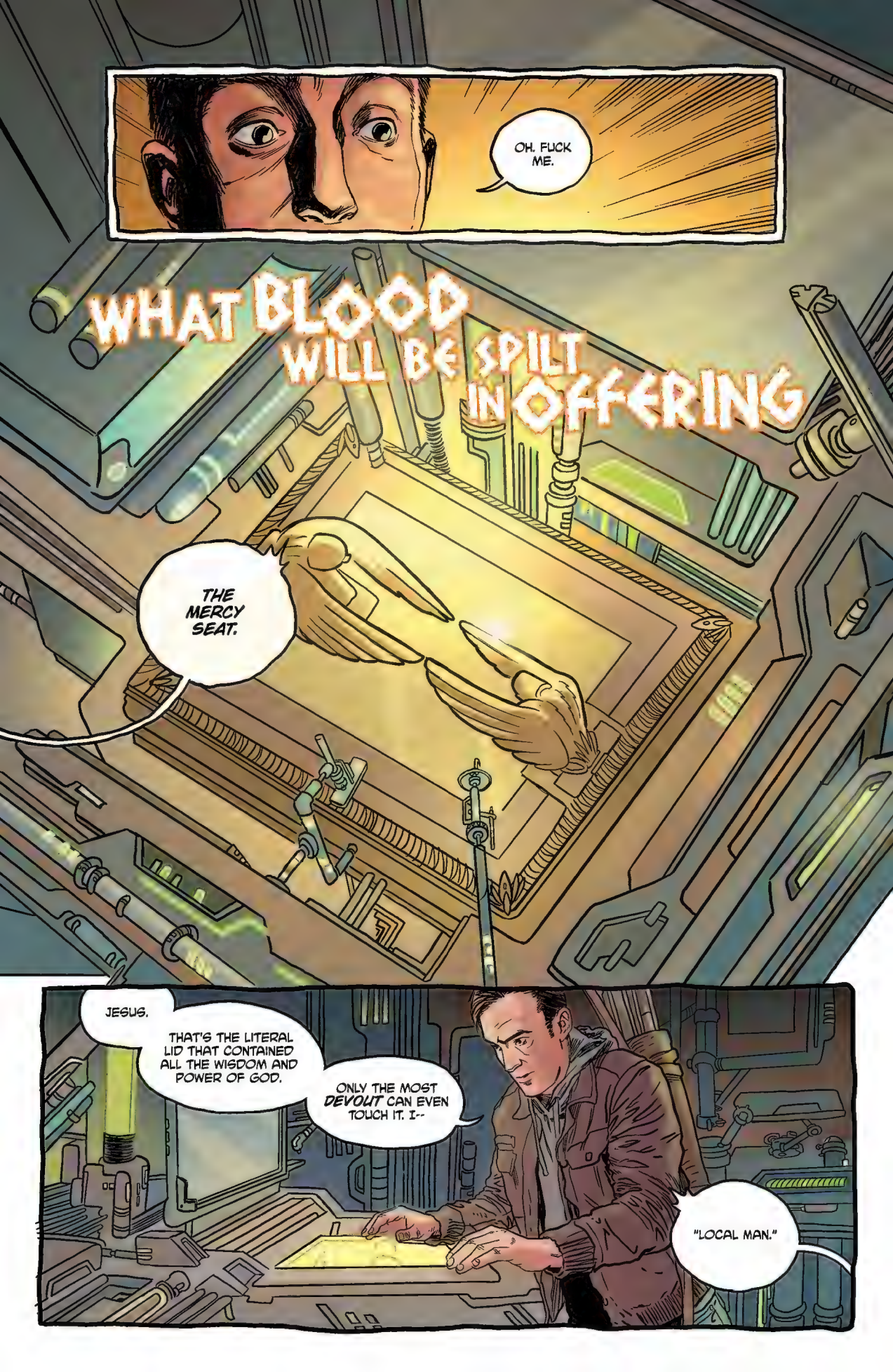
DID YOU JUST SHOOT ME WITH A FUCKING RUBBER BAND!?
I'M CROSSJACK, BITCH!
I DON'T MISS.
MOTHER-FUCKER--
STOP, OR I'LL SHOOT!
THEY DUG THIS QUARRY TOO DEEP...
HIT WATER. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...
BANG!
...END OF THE LINE.
INGA SAID I COULD SEE THE BEST WAY TO USE ANYTHING.
A NUNCHUCK. A TOWN. MAYBE EVEN A FLOODED QUARRY.
PEPPER, DO YOU TRUST ME?
GOOD ENOUGH.
DON'T GO ANOTHER STEP, XAVER!
I'VE GOT A KEY, YOU IDIOT!
JUST STOP OR--

SPLASH

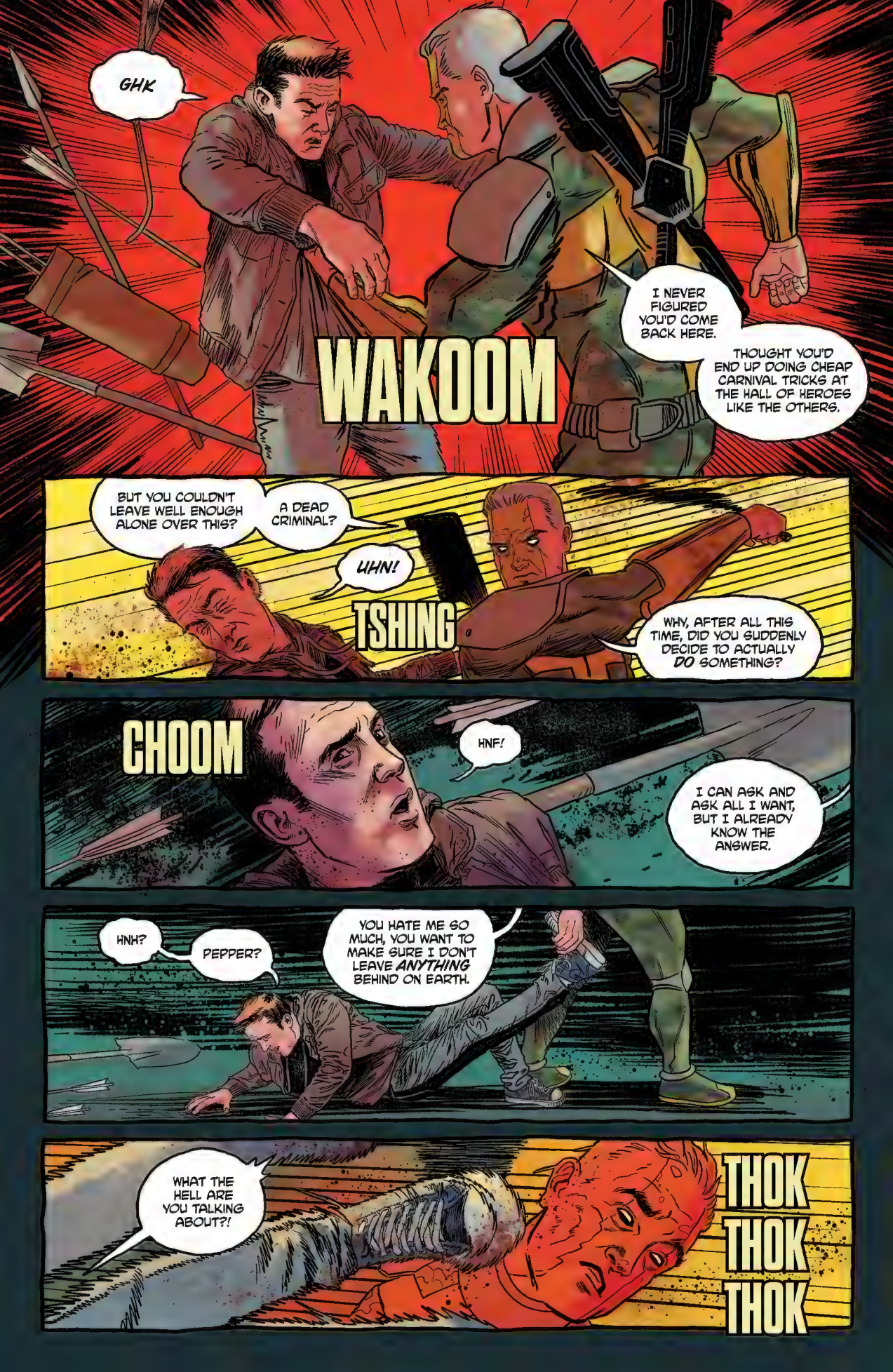
GODDAMMIT, YOU DUMB-ASS!
THAT HOLE IS TWENTY FEET DEEP AND FULL OF GHOST CURRENTS AND RUSTY METAL!
COME ON, MAN. COME UP!
INGA'LL NEVER LET ME LIVE IT DOWN IF I DROWN HER STUPID EX!
--THE HELL?
THAT ISN'T FIREWORKS.

SPLASH
HE DID IT.
HODAG. HE..
HNGF
KOFF
...HE DUG A HOLE...
ALL THE WAY DOWN TO A SUPERVILLAIN LAIR...
RRF

HUMAN-SIZED TUBES...
THAT ALWAYS MEANS SOME BAD SHIT HAS BEEN GOING ON.
RRF RRF!
PEP, HEY.
OH, THAT'S...
WHAT SINS MUST BE COVERED...
FAMILIAR.
FWAASH
...WHAT KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED
OH...


OH. FUCK ME.
WHAT BLOOD WILL BE SPILT IN OFFERING
THE MERCY SEAT.
JESUS.
THAT'S THE LITERAL LID THAT CONTAINED ALL THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD.
ONLY THE MOST DEVOUT CAN EVEN TOUCH IT. I--
"LOCAL MAN."

I THOUGHT THEY INFORMED YOU THAT YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY HERO ANYMORE.
MAN, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR ISSUES, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING COSMIC-LEVEL FUCKED UP GOING ON IN THIS TOWN.
IT NEEDS THE CAMO CRUSADER AND THIRD GEN...
WAIT...
YOU AREN'T WET.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?


GHK
WAKOOM
I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D COME BACK HERE.
THOUGHT YOU'D END UP DOING CHEAP CARNIVAL TRICKS AT THE HALL OF HEROES LIKE THE OTHERS.
BUT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE OVER THIS?
A DEAD CRIMINAL?
UHN!
TSHING
WHY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING?
CHOOM
HNF!
I CAN ASK AND ASK ALL I WANT, BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
HNH?
PEPPER?
YOU HATE ME SO MUCH, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE I DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND ON EARTH.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THOK
THOK
THOK

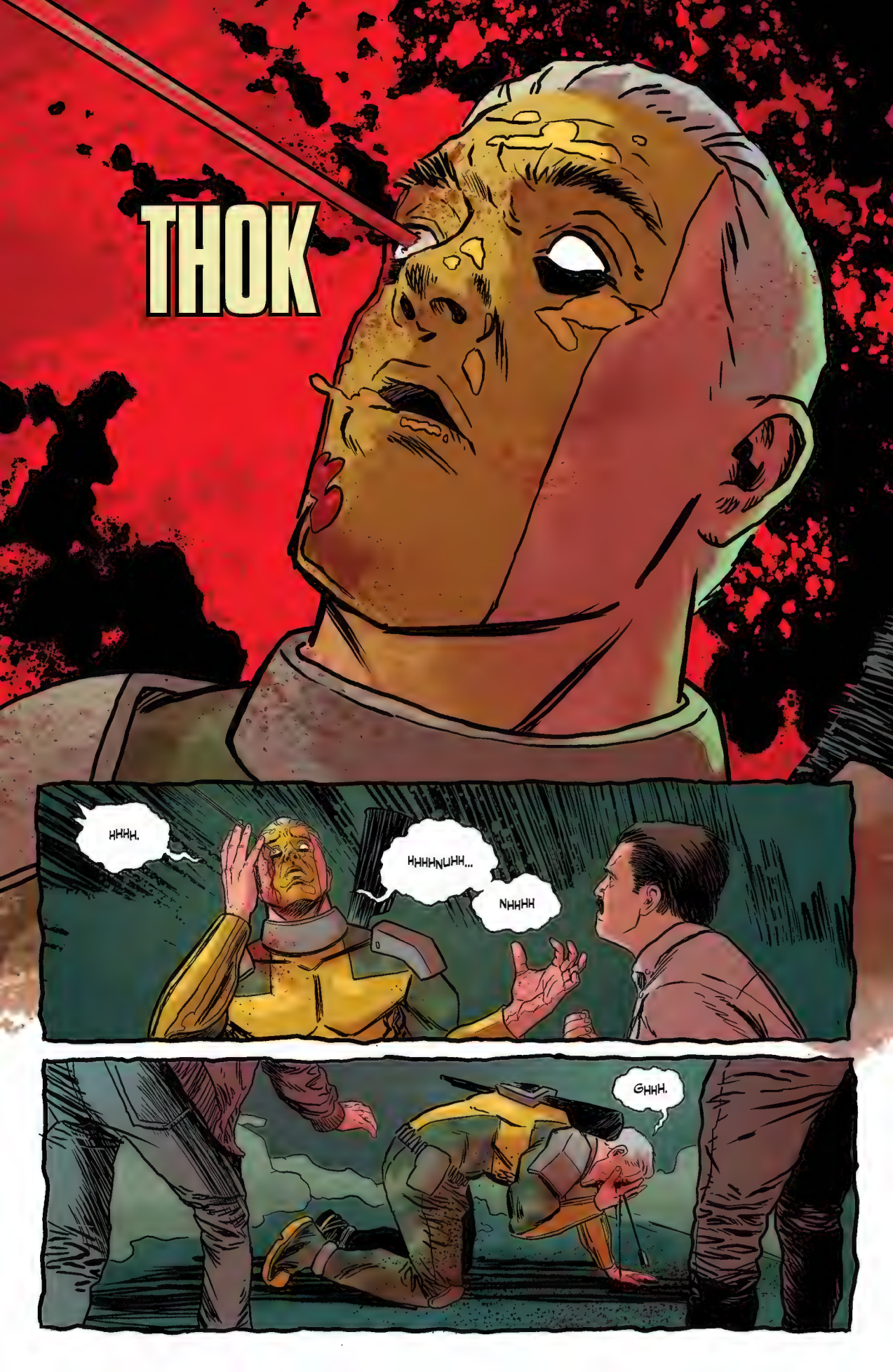
YOU STOLE MY FUTURE.
FNF
JESUS, MAN!
LOOK, I KNEW WHAT I DID... WHAT WE DID--
THROOM
I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO FLY WITH THIRD GEN PR. THAT IT WOULDN'T "POLL WELL."
I EVEN KNEW YOU'D PROBABLY FIRE ME BECAUSE I BROKE THE "MORALITY CLAUSE."
BUT, NEON IS HER OWN WOMAN. NOT YOURS. NOT MINE. I'M SORRY.
IT WAS HER CHOICE TO MAKE, MATT.

LIAR.
I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING, JACK. FRIENDSHIP. A PLACE ON THIRD GEN.
I WELCOMED YOUR FRIENDS AS MY OWN.
THOK
I HURT YOUR ENEMIES AS IF THEY'D SLIGHTED ME.
AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU DIDN'T STAND FOR ME!
PSSST
HNF!
C'MON
C'MON
C'MON
ERICA WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU!
YOU NEVER MISS, RIGHT?!
SHE DID THINGS FOR YOU SHE NEVER DID FOR ME!
PWOM
NO!
NO SHIELDS!
THIRD GEN OWNS CROSS-JACK!
NOW YOU HAVE TO BE PUNISHED, JACK.
BECAUSE YOU ROBBED ME OF THE ONE THING THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME HAPPINESS IN LIFE.

A CHILD FROM MY WIFE'S WOMB.
YOU STOLE MY SON, JACK!
KRAKOOM
NOW ALL OF THIS... THIS INVESTMENT.
THIS FINAL CHANCE TO PLANT SEEDS FOR TOMORROW. IMMORTALITY.
I HAVE NO ONE TO SHARE IT WITH.
"THE HEART OF MAN PLANS ITS WAY, BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES HIS STEPS."
WISDOM ONCE CONTAINED BENEATH THAT LID.
YOU...
YOU STOLE THE MERCY SEAT...
I WOULD HAVE SHARED MY SON WITH YOU, YOU KNOW.
I WOULD HAVE SHARED ALL MY CHILDREN WITH YOU.
BUT MY STEPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!

CAMO CRUSADER!
TURN AROUND SLOWLY!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULT AND TRESPASSING!
TRESPASS.
THE ONLY TRESPASSES HERE ARE THOSE DONE AGAINST ME BY A MAN I CALLED FRIEND.
AND NOW I HAVE TO ADD ANOTHER ONE, JACK.
YOU'VE MADE ME KILL AN OFFICER OF THE LAW.
PLEASE KNOW THAT I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT AND REVERENCE FOR YOUR PROFESSION...
PKOW
PKOW
PKOW
PTANG
PTANG
PTANG
STOP!
STOP!!
NNNUHH
...AND THE SACRIFICE YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE.
CCRNCH
AHHH!
MATT...

LET HIM GO.
NOW.
AH. THE BOW AND ARROW.
TOOL OF JEHOASH, KING OF ISRAEL.
HNNH.
AND THE ONE WEAPON YOU NEVER MASTERED.
I'M TELLING YOU...
GO AHEAD.
LET HER RIP, SON.
YOU'LL PROBABLY HIT THE COP.
PLEASE! DON'T--


THOK
HHHH.
HHHHNUHH...
NHHHH
GHHH.

I... I GUESS YOU SHOWED...
I WAS AIMING FOR HIS HAND.
HE TOOK THE MERCY SEAT. ONLY THE MOST DEVOUT...
HE WAS GOING TO USE IT TO MAKE HIMSELF A...
A GOD OR SOMETHING.
WHATEVER THAT THING DOES WHEN YOU HOOK IT UP TO AN "APHEK ENGINE."
HODAG FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AND TRIED TO STEAL IT, TO GET BACK AT ME.
FRIGHTSIDE KNEW WHERE HODAG HAD BEEN BEFORE HE DIED.
YOU KILLED THEM BOTH.
NO.
I LEARNED MY LESSON, JACK. ALL OF MY...
ALL MY CHILDREN MUST NOW DO FOR THEMSELVES.

HNNH
WOAH, MAN. TAKE IT EASY.
HE KICKED THE LIVING SNOT OUT OF YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE IT *THAT* LONG.
WAIT. BRIAN...
WHERE'S MY DOG?
SHIT.

SLRP SLRP SLRP
HNNH.
SLRP
SLRP
SLRP
OW.
AHH.
STOP, PEP.
STOP.
SLRP SLRP SLRP
AFTER YOU PASSED OUT, I FOUND HIM IN ONE OF THOSE TUBES.
HE MUST'VE FIGURED HE WAS SAFER IN THERE THAN AROUND YOU TWO S.P.B.S OR WHATEVER.
GUESS HE'S SMARTER THAN I AM.
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE IT?
WELCOME TO THE 4TH GEN TRAINING FACILITY.
WHEN THE CITY BOUGHT IT BACK FROM THIRD GEN, MOST OF IT GOT TURNED INTO A COMMUNITY CENTER.
BUT SOME OF IT WAS GIVEN TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
LIKE THIS LITTLE BLACK SITE YOU'RE IN NOW.
FARMINGTON POLICE

BLACK SITE?
NOT ON ANY BLUEPRINTS, NO WINDOWS, TOTALLY SECURE.
DOESN'T GET USED MUCH, BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.
WHAT? WHY?
WE ALREADY DON'T LIKE YOU IN THIS TOWN, JACK.
WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT YOU KILLED THE CAMO FUCKING CRUSADER, THEY'RE GOING TO LIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT LESS.
THEN WHY DO THEY HAVE TO KNOW?
YOU'RE A SUPERHERO. I'M A COP.
WE HAVE RULES.
I ALREADY CALLED IT IN.
JUST CHILL, DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF.
I'LL GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS, EXPLAIN THAT YOU DID WHAT YOU DID TO SAVE A COP, AND WE'LL SORT IT OUT FROM THERE.
AW MAN. WAIT.
DON'T--
AHNGH!
I CAN'T STAY HERE!
AT LEAST LEAVE ME A MAGAZINE OR A--
FUCK.

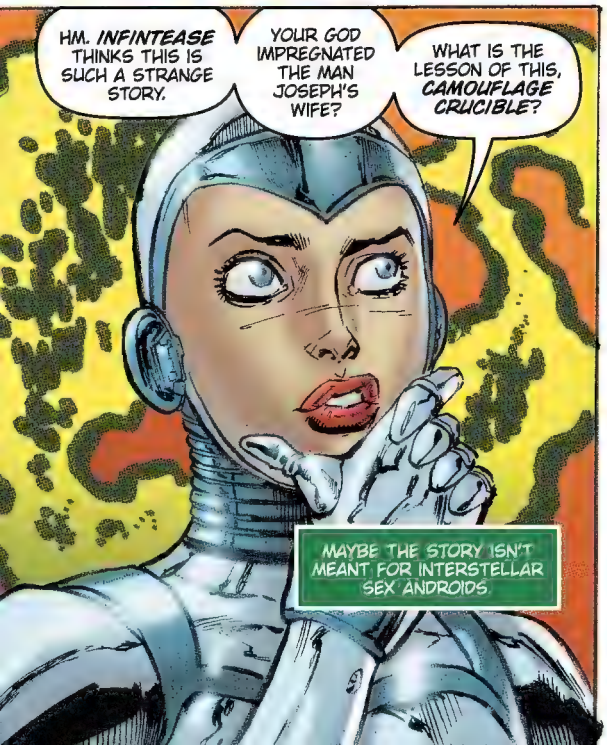
AH, CHRIST.
MATT.
FUCK, MAN.
HNH.
MATT...
4TH GEN TRAINING FACILITY.
THIS IS WHERE WE MET.
WHEN I WAS A 4TH GEN ROOKIE.
THIRD GEN BATTLEZONE
RECRUIT: SEASCAPE
RECRUIT: THE SLICK
I REMEMBER THESE OTHER KIDS TOO...
SOME PRETTY USEFUL ABILITIES...
...
HOLY SHIT. WAIT!
THE MERCY SEAT.
CAMO CRUSADER'S "CHILDREN"! HIS "INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW"...

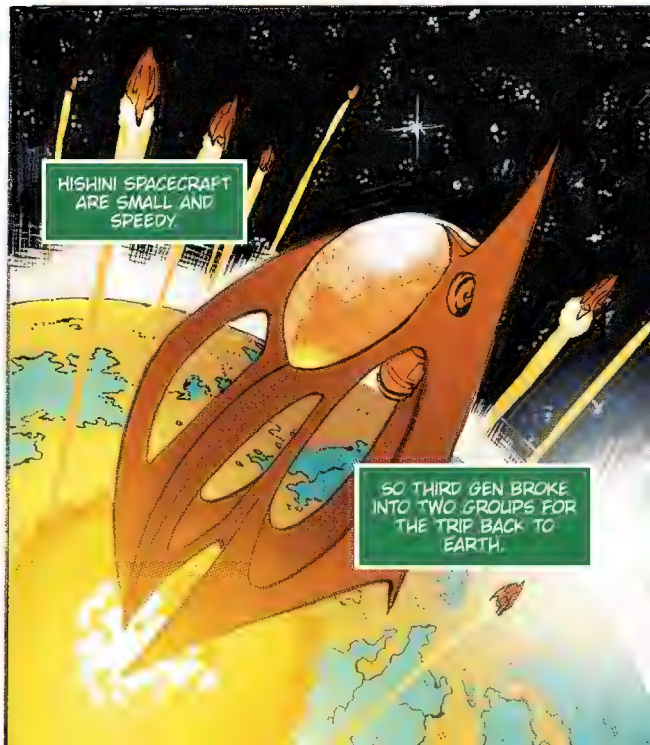
"THE APHEK ENGINE COULD STEAL SUPERPOWERS AND GIVE THEM TO OTHER PEOPLE."
HEY.
FARMINGTON POLICE
VMMMMMMM
GHK!
SPECIAL DELIVERY.
SHUNK
"IT COULD MAKE AN 'INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW.'"
HE'S IN THERE, AIN'T HE?
NNNH.
"HOLY SHIT, PEP. I THINK..."
"I THINK I JUST SAVED THE DAY."
POLICE
I GOT SOMETHIN' FOR HIM TOO.
VMMMMMMM
MMMMMMM

THIRD GEN'S FIRST LADY
NEON

FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER:
THE WAR ON KAOS ENDED.
THIRD GEN AND THE STAR PACT WERE TRIUMPHANT.
THE HISHIN PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THEIR PLANET BACK.

WE SAID GOODBYE TO OLD ALLIES AND NEW FRIENDS.
PRAYERS WERE SHARED, AND THE WORD OF THE ONE GOD WAS SPREAD TO THOSE WHO WOULD HEAR IT.


HM. INFINTEASE THINKS THIS IS SUCH A STRANGE STORY.
YOUR GOD IMPREGNATED THE MAN JOSEPH'S WIFE?
WHAT IS THE LESSON OF THIS, CAMOUFLAGE CRUCIBLE?
MAYBE THE STORY ISN'T MEANT FOR INTERSTELLAR SEX ANDROIDS.


HISHINI SPACECRAFT ARE SMALL AND SPEEDY.
SO THIRD GEN BROKE INTO TWO GROUPS FOR THE TRIP BACK TO EARTH.

PROBLEMS BEGAN SOON AFTER LAUNCH IN THE SHIP I SHARED WITH CROSSJACK AND NEON.
LIKELY, THERE WAS UNNOTICED DAMAGE TO THE SURGE-DRIVE AFTER THE SIEGE OF TISHAMADIN. BUT MY HISHIN IS WEAK.
ᛉᛟᚳᚳᚢᛗᛈᛟ ᚢᚱᚱᚴᚠᚢ ᛟᚱ
THE ARTIFICIAL GUIDE'S LAST ACTION BEFORE ITS CIRCUITS MELTED WAS TO DIRECT THE TUMBLING SHELL TOWARDS A SMALL VIOLET AND TEAL ORB JUST OUTSIDE THE RINGS OF SOME MASSIVE GAS GIANT.
NEON USED HER POWERS TO CLEAR ANY OBSTACLES IN OUR WAY TO ENSURE THE SOFTEST LANDING POSSIBLE.
GOD, AS EVER, REMINDS ME THAT MY WIFE IS A REMARKABLE WOMAN.
WE NOW FOUND OURSELVES ON A SAVAGE, UNTAMED WORLD.
UNSURE IF OUR COMPATRIOTS WERE AWARE WE WERE NO LONGER BESIDE THEM, OR IF THEY WOULD EVER REACH EARTH THEMSELVES.
AND THEN THE SERPENTS ATTACKED.

THOSE FIRST WEEKS WERE THE HARDEST, BEFORE WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE PREDATORS' FEEDING HABITS, OR FOUND THAT THE MEMBRANES IN THEIR STOMACHS COULD BE USED TO FILTER WATER.
HISHIN RATIONS RAN LOW AND THE MEGAPEDE'S FLESH WAS TOO SHARP TO SWALLOW.
THE NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH HORRORS.
THE LOW SUN WEAKENED ERICA'S POWERS CONSIDERABLY, WHICH MEANT...
THE DAYS WERE NEARLY AS DARK.
IT'S FINE, CAMO. JUST GO.
CROSSJACK. YOU'RE WITH ME. LEAVE YOUR SHIELD.
WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?
TAKE YOUR WEAPONS. THY QUIVER AND THY BOW.
TODAY WE HUNT.
WOULDN'T *SHOT RODS* BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

SHOT RODS ARE NEARLY OUT OF JUICE.
LUCKILY, WE HAVE THE MARKSMAN WITH US AND NOT THE ONE WHO'S HALF JET.
THE LORD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH OF US.
HEY, AIR RAIDER COULD AT LEAST MAYBE FLY YOU OFF THIS ROCK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK THIS TO YOU, SIR BUT...
I CAN'T SHOOT A BOW FOR SHIT.
JACK "X MARKS THE SPOT" XAVER CAN'T SHOOT A BOW AND ARROW?
IT'S THE ONE THING I CAN'T SHOOT.
BROKE MY DAD'S HEART.
MAN...
DAD...
I'M SO FAR AWAY FROM HIM. EVEN FARTHER THAN USUAL.
I MET YOUR FATHER. GOOD MAN.
CATHOLIC. HE WAS PROUD OF YOU.
THE FATHER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN REJOICES IN HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW RIGHTEOUS I AM.
BUT I CAN SAY FOR SURE, I NEVER SAW HIM REJOICE.
WE COULD NEVER CONNECT.
HE WOULD'VE LOVED THIS THOUGH.
HE LOVED BOWHUNTING.
I... I JUST WANTED TO MAKE HIM PROUD...

"I WAS THIRTEEN, THE LAST TIME WE WENT OUT."
"IT WAS LIKE THIS. I MEAN, LESS MORTAL DANGER. NOT AS MUCH SLIME BUT..."

WE SAT IN THAT FIELD ALL MORNING IN COMPLETE SILENCE.
NOT THAT HE WAS SUPER CHATTY OTHERWISE BUT THIS WAS...
IT WAS DIFFERENT. WE JUST SAT TOGETHER IN LIKE...
QUIET HARMONY.

MY DAD SAW THE BUCK BEFORE I DID. HE JUST PUT HIS HAND ON MY SHOULDER.
AND I STEADIED MY LITTLE COMPOUND BOW. ARROW NOCKED...

"AND I FELT IT..."
"THE THING I ALWAYS FEEL, IT'S LIKE A LITTLE JOLT WHEN EVERY-THING'S LINED UP."
"IT CLICKED IN."

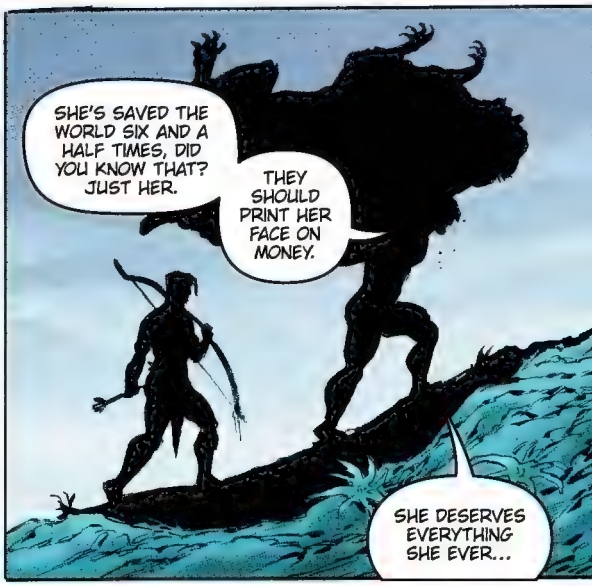
"I LOOKED THAT BUCK IN THE EYE AND..."

AND I WEPT.
I JUST FELL APART RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF MY DAD.
LIKE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL SOMETHING FOR...Y'KNOW...
SHHH...
BY THE TIME HE COULD STEADY HIS OWN ARROW, THE DEER HAD HEARD ME FUSSING AND RUN OFF.
DAD DIDN'T EVER TRY TO TAKE ME OUT THERE AGAIN.
I COULDN'T SHOOT EVEN A NERF ARROW AFTER THAT. THE THING I FEEL WHEN THE SHOT'S RIGHT...
IT'S LIKE IT'S DISCONNECTED.
I CAN KICK THIS PEBBLE THROUGH THAT TINY KNOTHOLE UP THERE WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY.
BUT HAND ME A STICK WITH A STRING TIED TO IT AND-
SHHH...
DON'T DESPAIR, SON.
WE EACH HAVE OUR PURPOSE.
SSSSSS-
THOK

I'M... I'M SORRY, MAN.
THIS ALIEN ATMOSPHERE'S MESSING WITH MY EMOTIONS OR SOMETHING.
SPEAKING OF: THERE'S NO WAY ERICA CAN KEEP UP HER VEGAN THING FOR MUCH LONGER OUT HERE...
SHE IS STRONGER THAN YOU THINK.

THE WAY I LOVE HER, JACK. I WORSHIP THAT WOMAN.
SHE'S JUST... SHE'S PURE. NOT PURE LIKE SHE'S INNOCENT...
I'M NOT A CREEP.
PURE LIKE SHE'S UNCUT. RAW. SHE'S 100%.
SHE'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT'S WHAT. NO MATTER THE COST.
I MEAN, YEAH... SHE'S-

SHE TOLD ME THE TWO OF YOU KISSED.
OH...
CAMO- I MEAN, MATTHEW, I DIDN'T...


SHE'S SAVED THE WORLD SIX AND A HALF TIMES, DID YOU KNOW THAT? JUST HER.
THEY SHOULD PRINT HER FACE ON MONEY.
SHE DESERVES EVERYTHING SHE EVER...

AND YET, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CANNOT GIVE HER.
THE TEMPLAR TONIC THAT GAVE ME MY POWERS...
IT TOOK FROM ME ALSO.

BULLETS BOUNCE OFF ME. HIT ME WITH A TRUCK, I CAN'T FEEL IT.
BUT NEITHER CAN I FEEL IT WHEN MY WIFE CARESSES MY CHEEK OR MY...
JACK...
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...

AND SO I ASKED GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US.
IF THERE WAS A RESPONSE, IT WAS DROWNED IN THE CRIES OF FEATHERED DOGS AND THE MOANING OF MY WIFE.
BUT MAYBE I KNOW THE ANSWER TO INFINITEASE'S QUESTION NOW.
MAYBE MY PURPOSE ISN'T TO BE LIKE CHRIST.
MAYBE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FATHER.
END TRANSMISSION.
FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER.
NEXT ISSUE:
HOMECOMING

Chapter 5

"COORDINATES SET."
"4 THE COMMUNITY CENTER, FARMINGTON, WISCONSIN."
"FORMERLY 4TH GEN ACADEMY."
"TRACKING BEACON SAYS THAT'S WHERE HE'S AT."
PEPPER, I DON'T LIKE THE VIBE IN HERE...
WE'RE STILL NOT GETTING A READING ON...
ERICA, THERE ARE NO VITALS ON CAMO.
HE'S GONNA BE OK.
HE'S ALWAYS OK.
JUST FLY.
"THE POLICE DISPATCH SAID HE WAS D--"
"DUDE, SHUT THE FUCK UP. SMALL-TOWN COPS CAN'T TELL THEIR ASS FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND."
GHH.
"WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT."

I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER THIS PLACE...
I GOT PROMOTED TO *THIRD GEN* BEFORE CLASSES EVEN STARTED.
C'MON. THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO...
XAVER, JACK. CODENAME: CROSSJACK.
ACCESS GRANTED.
PSSSSSSSSH
WAIT...
...I KNOW THIS ROOM.
MACHINES
GOD, LOOK AT US...

I NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT THE OTHER GUYS AFTER I LEFT.
I GUESS I FIGURED THEY DIDN'T PASS MUSTER, Y'KNOW?
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT...
HARD TO PROCESS CAMO CRUSADER STEALING THEIR ABILITIES TO GIVE TO SOMEONE ELSE.
SEASCAPE. WATER POWERS.
THE SLICK. HE WAS LIKE... SUPER-GREASY.
MELTDOWN. HEAT POWERS.
KING BEE HAD SUPER STRENGTH.
AND WHAT WAS THIS GIRL'S NAME?
ANGELIQUE?
SHE COULD FLOAT AND LIKE...
PEEKABOO.
VMM
MMM
MMM
MM
AHN!
KRRSH
RRF!
AH...
FUH--
THAT WAS HER NAME.

TELEPORTATION POWERS.
WHA--
IT MADE THIS BUZZING TONE. I GUESS THE OTHER KIDS HATED IT.
ONE A' THEM FIELDS, Y'KNOW. ELECTRO-WHAT-EVER.
FUCKED UP THEIR WALKMANS N' PLAYSTATIONS N' SHIT.
ME? I LOVE IT. GOT A PLEASIN' SOUND.
AND IT DOES A NUMBER ON JAIL SECURITY CAMERAS.
YOU...
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
VMMMM
MMMMM
YOU KILLED HODAG!

I PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY.
HE CAME TO YOU FOR HELP AND WHAT DID YOU DO?
VMMMMMMMMMM
THE CAN'T-MISS-KID ALWAYS HITS WHATEVER'S IN FRONT OF HIM.
WELL, I AIN'T IN FRONT OF YOU.
I'M IN MY GRANDMA'S BACKYARD.
VMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
I'M AT THE WATER-SLIDES.
5FT
I'M RUNNING PAST THE CORPSE OF THE GUY WHO YOU SHOT IN THE FUCKIN' EYEBALL!
AND YOU, BITCH?
YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU.

SHNK
AAAH!
YEAH, I'M GONNA TAKE MY TIME, ON YOU, "CROSSJACK."
AND NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU KILLED THE GODDAMN CAMO CRUSADER...
SAVIOR OF THE REAL AMERICA.
A PIECE OF SHIT LIKE YOU?
I'M GONNA MAKE THIS HURT.
KRRSH
GUH!
WH-WHY?
BECAUSE I SLEPT WITH CAMO CRUSADER'S WIFE??
FUUUCK THAT HURTS!
HAHA
YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?

AIN'T NOBODY CARES WHO YOU FUCK ANYMORE, JACKOFF.
IT AIN'T THE NINETIES.
GHH.
KAVER, JACK. CODENAME: CROSSJACK.
ACCESS GRANTED.
PSSSSSH
LOOK AROUND, DIPSHIT.
HOW COME THIS PLACE IS EMPTY?
HOW COME THERE AIN'T CARS IN THE PARKING LOT?
WHY'S HALF THIS TOWN OUT OF WORK??
THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT THIS TOWN ON THE MAP!
SUPERHERO TRAINING FACILITY. JOBS! SECURITY!
FWUMP
NOW THERE AIN'T NO JOBS HERE. IT'S JUST BINGO ON FRIDAYS.
4-H IN THE SUMMER.
ALL BECAUSE YOU LEFT, CITY BOY...

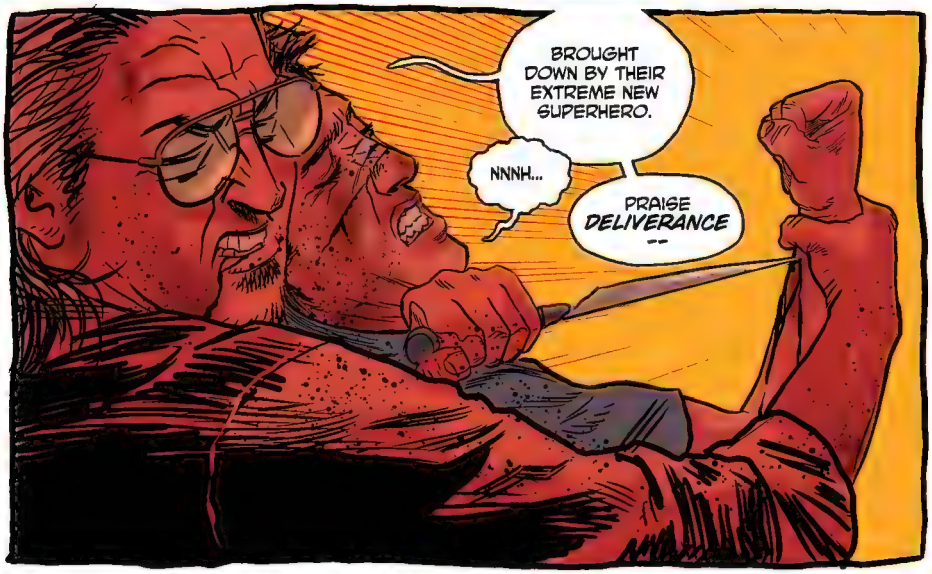
MY OLD MAN WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK HERE. BEFORE YOU ABANDONED THIS TOWN.
YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID TO MAKE A LIVING AFTER THAT?
RAAH!!
SHANG
HE DELIVERED NEWSPAPERS.
DIED A SIXTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD PAPERBOY.
I AIN'T GOING OUT LIKE THAT.
I'M SOME-BODY.

I'M A YOUNG BLOOD...
...A WILD CAT. A FUCKIN' HELLSPAWN. NOT SOME FAKE-ASS THIRD GEN--
WE SAVED THE WORLD! SEVERAL TIMES!
YEAH, YOU DONE CONSIDERABLE. THIS TOWN LOOK SAVED TO YOU?
I'M THE ONE WHO'S A FUCKIN' SUPERHERO, HERE!
INFILTRATIN' SECRET HEAD-QUARTERS. KILLIN' BAD GUYS.
I GET IT DONE.
I USE THIS POWER THE WAY IT SHOULD'A BEEN USED.
PWANG
PWANG
PWANG
HEIR TO THE CAMO CRUSADER LEGACY.
A STRAIGHT-UP FUCKIN' BAD ASS.
VMMM

PWANG
GHK!

JUST ASK HODAG.
ASK FRIGHT-SIDE.
ASK CHIEF BUCHOLZ.
VMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
PFFT.
GHT.

KICK
AH, NO...
BRIAN...
YOU THOUGHT THE COP WAS GONNA CLEAR YOUR NAME?
NOT THIS TIME.
YOU'RE FARMINGTON'S OWN CROSSJACK, HERO KILLER...


BROUGHT DOWN BY THEIR EXTREME NEW SUPERHERO.
NNNH...
PRAISE DELIVERANCE --

...THE FUCK?
RRRRRRRRR

GRRRR
RRRRR
RRRR
RRRRF!
RRRR
RRRF
GRRRR
RRR
RRRRRR
RRRG
NO TEETH.
HAHA
HOW FUCKIN' OLD IS THIS DOG?
WANNA KNOW WHY CAMO LIKED ME?
'CAUSE I NEVER FROZE UP LIKE A PUSSY WHEN SOMETHIN' HAD TO DIE.
RRRRRGHHHHH
CRRNK
RAAAAHHHH!

VMMMMMMMMM
THRAKOOM
WHOK
THROK
THRAM
SPLOK
GHHH
HNN.
OH SHIT.
SHIT. PEPPER!

COME ON, BUDDY. COME ON!
YOU'RE OK!
YOU HAVE TO BE OK!
PLEASE!!
I DIDN'T PROTECT YOU. I SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE...
I SHOULD'VE...
HHM.
I'M SUCH AN ASSHOLE.
VMMMMMM
SUCH A SELFISH FUCKING STUPID ASSHOLE.
VMMMMMMMM

VMMMMMMMMMM
HEH...
FUCK YOU...
FUCK...
KAFF
HACK
FUCK...
...CROSSJAC--
PKOW
HK!
BANG
BANG
BANG!
VMM.
JESUS...

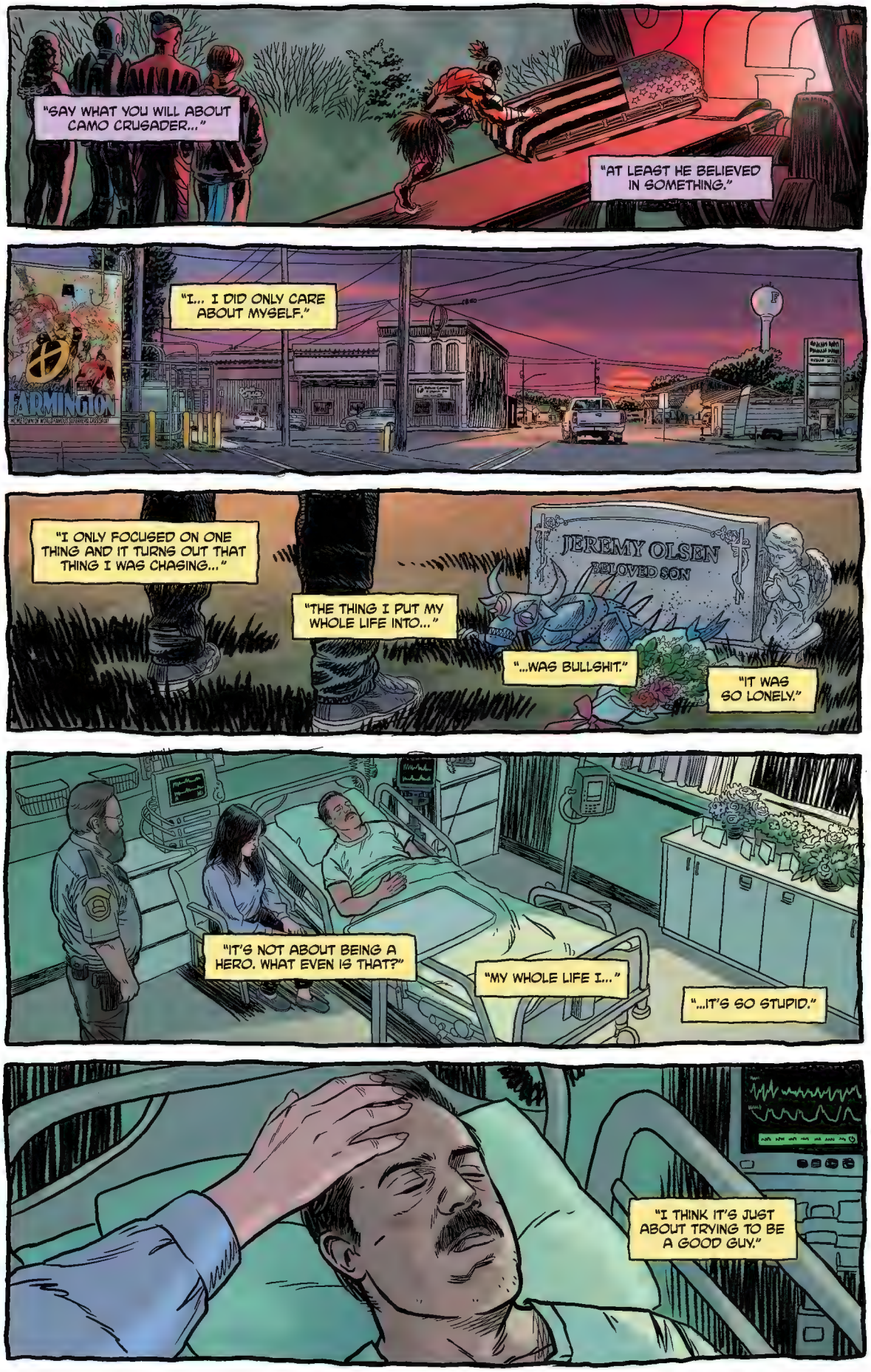
INGA!?
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE? IS BRIAN--?
CALLED ME.
TOLD ME HE LOVED ME AND THE KIDS.
I...
I GOT AN AMBULANCE. JUST IN TIME.
...TOOK HIS GUN. JACK. WHAT IS ALL THIS?
HODAG.
THAT PRICK KILLED HIM FOR CAMO CRUSADER.
JEREMY KNEW STUFF.
SUPERVILLAIN PLANS TO MAKE SUPERGUYS OUT OF 4TH GEN.
AND HE KILLED PEPPER TOO.
JACK--?
RRF.
HOW THE FUCK?

THEN.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR ISSUES...
...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING COSMIC-LEVEL FUCKED UP GOING ON IN THIS TOWN.
IT NEEDS THE CAMO CRUSADER AND THIRD GEN...
RESTRICTED AREA
FARMINGTON QUARRY
KEEP OUT
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE
WAIT... YOU AREN'T WET.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
WAKOOM
I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D COME BACK HERE...
KLK
WHY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING?
ACTIVATED
I CAN ASK AND ASK ALL I WANT, BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
CHOOM
NOW.
...
YOU REALLY ARE INVINCIBLE.
CROSSJACK! GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE, RIGHT NOW!
STAY HERE.

NEON.
ERICA, I...
WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S MY HUSBAND?
ERICA, HE DIDN'T...
HE'S--
SMACK!
YOU STUPID ASSHOLES. I TOLD HIM.
I TOLD HIM NOT TO FUCK WITH THIS PLACE!
WAIT...
neon
WAS IT YOU?
DID YOU KILL HIM OR WAS IT THIS DEAD SHITKICKER ON THE GROUND?

DID...
ERICA, DID YOU KNOW WHY HE WAS HERE?
DID YOU KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING IN MY TOWN?
"YOUR TOWN." LISTEN TO YOU.
HE CAME HERE, FURIOUS ABOUT THE ABORTION.
THAT'S WHY HE FIRED ME.
WE FOUGHT AND I...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUT I... I SHOT HIM AND IT... IT...
HE'S GONE. HE DIED.
ERICA, I'M SORRY. I'M SO--
RRRRAAAAHHH!!
ZAAAAAAAMMMM
ARE WE DOING THIS!?
LET'S ROCK N'--
BIG ISLAND, BACK THE FUCK UP!
GET BACK IN THE JET.

YOU KNOW WHY I LIKED YOU, JACK?
WHY IT WAS YOU INSTEAD OF CUTTING EDGE OR AIR RAIDER OR...
BECAUSE...
I DON'T HAVE FLAMING KNIVES FOR FINGERS?
BECAUSE YOU'RE UNCOMPLICATED. SIMPLE.
YOU DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANYTHING.
MATT DIDN'T FIRE YOU BECAUSE I GOT AN ABORTION, YOU ASSHOLE.
HE WAS CUTTING TIES TO THIS WHOLE PLACE. 4TH GEN. THE APHEK PROJECT.
HE FIGURED YOU'D JUST END UP IN REHAB OR ON REALITY TV.
NOBODY EXPECTED YOU TO GO DIGGING INTO CONSPIRACIES IN NOWHERESVILLE, U.S.A.
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
THIS IS MY HOME, ERICA.
IS IT?
I DON'T THINK YOU BELIEVE THAT.
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS PLACE OR ANY OTHER PLACE.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.
WHY I DIDN'T HAVE YOUR CHILD.
I KNEW.
I KNEW YOU WANTED TO GET THE FUCK OUT OF THIS TOWN SO BAD...
...YOU'D MAKE SURE YOUR ARCHENEMY ATTACKED A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SO YOU COULD SHOW OFF.
I KNEW THAT BENEATH ALL THAT "GEE GOLLY, WHO'D WE HELP HERE? WHAT'D WE SAVE" BULLSHIT...
...WAS SOMEONE WHO CARED ABOUT ONE GODDAMN THING OVER ANYTHING OR ANYONE.
HIS IMAGE.


"SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT CAMO CRUSADER..."
"AT LEAST HE BELIEVED IN SOMETHING."
"I... I DID ONLY CARE ABOUT MYSELF."
FARMINGTON
"I ONLY FOCUSED ON ONE THING AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THING I WAS CHASING..."
"THE THING I PUT MY WHOLE LIFE INTO..."
"...WAS BULLSHIT."
JEREMY OLSEN
BELOVED SON
"IT WAS SO LONELY."
"IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A HERO. WHAT EVEN IS THAT?"
"MY WHOLE LIFE I..."
"...IT'S SO STUPID."
"I THINK IT'S JUST ABOUT TRYING TO BE A GOOD GUY."

"HERE I AM, BORN WITH THIS THING. THIS POWER. I CAN SEE POTENTIAL."
"HOW BEST TO USE THINGS. NUNCHUCKS. SHIELDS."
"BUT IT WORKS ON PLACES TOO."
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE
"AND I GUESS PROBABLY ON PEOPLE."
SORRY. I HAD TO...
WE KNOW.
YOUR MOM AND I HELD OFF.
JUST DON'T GO GETTIN' USED TO IT.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR DINNER.
"MAYBE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD."
"MAYBE I CAN'T BE A SUPERHERO."
"BUT I CAN DO LITTLE THINGS. START SMALL."
"I CAN BE A GOOD GUY."

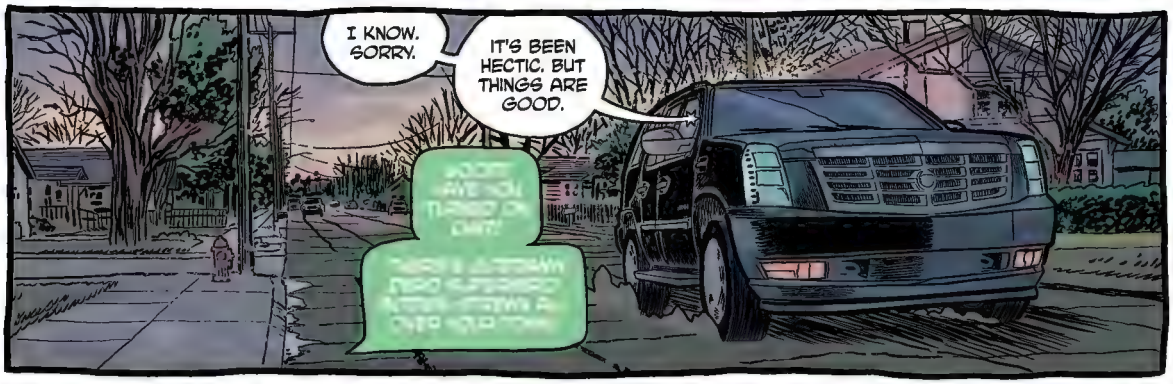
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A PRETTY GOOD GUY, JACK.
BUT YOU SHOULD GET YOUR SHIT ON AND GET OUT OF HERE.
BRIAN'S MOM IS BRINGING THE KIDS HOME SOON.
OH...
RIGHT. UM...
I SHOULD, UH...
IDIOT.
TAP
TAP

OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN...
FUCKING CROSSJACK.
I TOLD YOU.
I'M NOT CROSSJACK.
I'M JACK XAVER.
DEFENDER OF FARMINGTON, WISCONSIN.
YEAH?
FUCK HIM TOO.
STUPID FUCKING NAME.
OK. JUST DRIVE.
RRR.
STOP

BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ

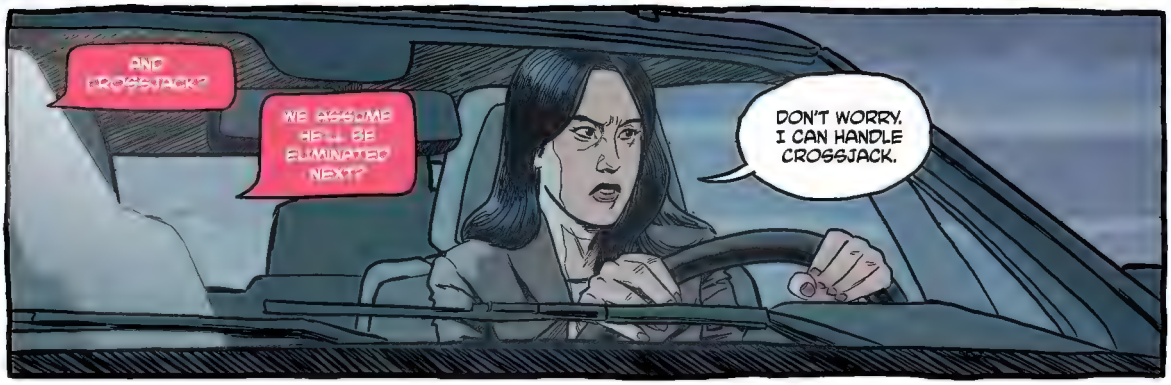
BEEP
I'M HERE.

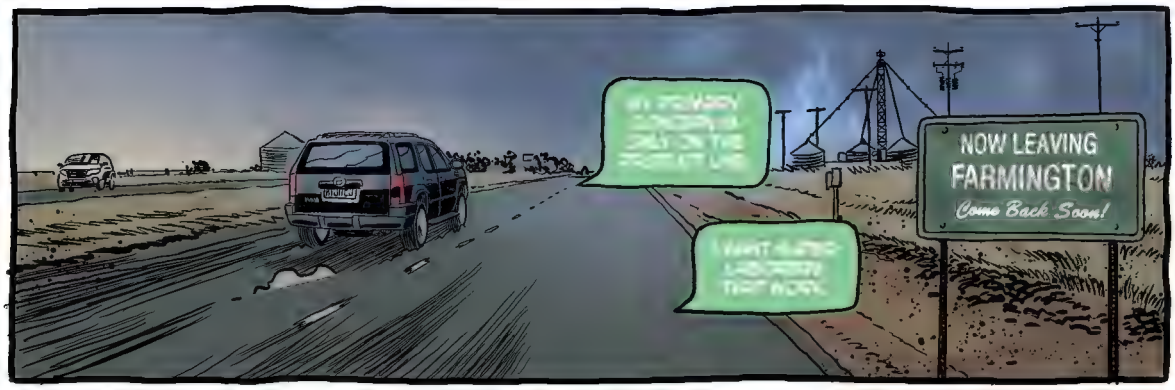
AUNTIE INGA HAS JOINED THE CALL.
WE EXPECT A REPORT, MRS. JOHANNING.

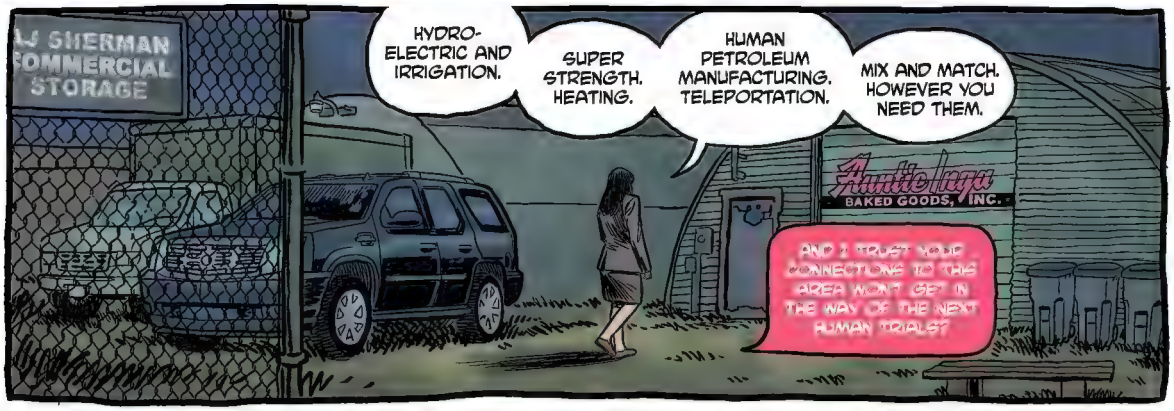

I KNOW. SORRY.
IT'S BEEN HECTIC. BUT THINGS ARE GOOD.

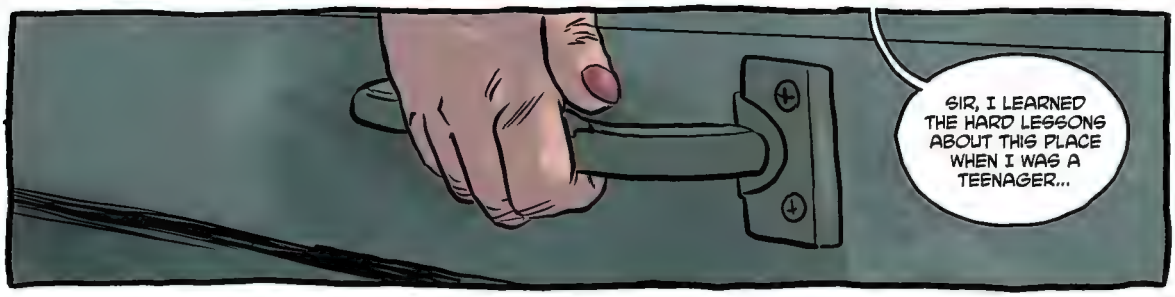
LIKE I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS: CAMO CRUSADER ONLY COMPLICATED THINGS.
TOO CONCERNED WITH HIS "KIDS" OR WHATEVER.
HARD TO KEEP ANYTHING QUIET WITH A SCREAMING ROID-RAGE SUPER-COMMANDO IN THE MIX.
YOU WANT TO DO BUSINESS? TALK TO A BUSINESS-WOMAN.

CONFERENCE CALL
INVESTOR ONE
INVESTOR TWO
CONNECTED
3:34


AND CROSSJACK?
WE ASSUME HE'LL BE ELIMINATED NEXT?
DON'T WORRY. I CAN HANDLE CROSSJACK.


NOW LEAVING
FARMINGTON
Come Back Soon!


J SHERMAN
OMMERCIAL
STORAGE
HYDRO-ELECTRIC AND IRRIGATION.
SUPER STRENGTH. HEATING.
HUMAN PETROLEUM MANUFACTURING. TELEPORTATION.
MIX AND MATCH. HOWEVER YOU NEED THEM.
Auntie Inga
BAKED GOODS, INC.
AND I TRUST YOUR CONNECTIONS TO THIS AREA WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF THE NEXT HUMAN TRIALS?


SIR, I LEARNED THE HARD LESSONS ABOUT THIS PLACE WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER...

YOU TAKE WHAT YOU NEED FROM THIS TOWN, AND THEN YOU GET THE FUCK OUT.
TO BE CONTINUED

THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEROES!
4TH GEN
BLASTING
OUT OF
THE PAGES OF
THIRD GEN

4TH GEN!
WHILE YOU PUSH YOUR POWERS TO THE LIMIT!
SEASCAPE
VMMMMMMM
PEEKABOO
WHILE YOU CURSE MY NAME AND WAIT FOR THE SWEET RELEASE OF THE RE-GEN BEDS--
MELTDOWN
KING BEE
THE SLICK
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER SOMETHING!
image comics presents:
TRAINING DAY

NONE OF YOU ARE SUPERHEROES! NOT YET!
CLEAR A PATH!
VMMMMMMM
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT OUTSIDERS!
LONERS! JUST USEFUL PARTS!
TAKE IT EASY, HOT STUFF!
PRETTY SMOOTH, RIGHT SLICK?
YOU PUNKS WANT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF?!
SHOW ME WHAT MAKES YOU USEFUL!

LATER.
MACHINES OF LOVING GRACE
concentrati
DUDE, MY ASS IS BEAT LIKE A DRUM.
MY, UM... BEHIND AS WELL.
I THINK I'M GONNA HIT MY RE-GEN BED.
OKAY, CHURCH GIRL.
I COULD USE AN ICED CAPPUCCINO AND A HOT GUY WITH A GUITAR.
HA.
RIGHT, SURE, SEASCAPE.
A COFFEE SHOP.
THE ONLY THING OUTSIDE THOSE WALLS IS CORN AND GIRLS WHO THINK DUDES WHO PUT FIREWORKS IN THEIR ASSES ARE HUSBAND MATERIAL.
I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES WITH CAMO CRUSADER.
WAIT, ANGELIQUE, DON'T USE YOUR POWERS AROUND--
VMMM
WELL, THERE GOES THE SEGA.
HEY, HOW COME WE GOT DRAGGED TO CROSSJACK'S SHITTY TOWN, AND THEN HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO STAY HERE?
THAT'S THE CRIME WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING.
I MEAN, WE CAN STILL MAKE THIS PLACE FUN.
MELTDOWN, YOU GET HOT. SEASCAPE TURNS ON THE WATER-WORKS.
WE GOT OURSELVES A HOT TUB PARTY!
AND WHAT ABOUT ME?
THE GUY WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUBE?
I'M SURE WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
OK! THAT'S MY CUE.
I'M GONNA HIT THE RE-GEN BED.
LATER, STRANGERS.

YOU IN BED YET, CHURCH GIRL?
VMMMM
MELTDOWN
NOT WITHOUT YOU, M/ SOL.
MELTDOWN? WHAT'S WRONG--?
PEEK...
GET IN YOUR RE-GEN BEDS.
ALONE.

I WON'T DO IT!

I WON'T LET MY LEGACY FALL TO THESE DEGENERATES!

I'LL STAY UNTIL I DIE OF OLD AGE BEFORE I LET THEM TAINT IT!

CROSSJACK

Civilian Name:
Jack Xaver

Powers:
Precision targeting.
…er of several
…ns, fighting styles.

Project Aphek Resource rating: **5**

Hunter/…
…ty, long…
rang…

I'M PUTTING THE 4TH GEN PROJECT ON INDEFINITE HOLD.

THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT ITS ONLY NEW HERO WILL BE ***CROSSJACK*** FOR THE TIME BEING.

MELTDOWN

Civilian Name:
Taylor Stone

Powers:
Fire projection.
Tied to emotion.

Project Aphek Resource rating: **9**

Welding, Heating, Smelting, Incineration, Cremation

PEEKABOO

Civilian Name:
Angelique Trujillo

Powers:
Flight, Teleportation.

Project Aphek Resource rating: **10**

Shipping, Delivery, travel, messenger, espionage, assassination

I'LL PERSONALLY OVERSEE THE TERMINATION OF THIS CLASS.

SEASCAPE

Civilian Name:
Classified

Powers:
Generates/projects water. Liquid based telekenisis.

…t Aphek Resource

…rrigation, hydro-electric, cleaning, hydration.

DON'T BE SO IMPULSIVE, MR. CRUSADER.

THE FUTURE WILL BE BETTER TOMORROW.

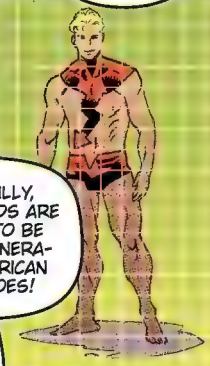
KING BEE

Civilian Name:
Eric Winston

Powers:
Super Strength, Poison Electro-Sting.

Project Aphek Re… rating: **7**

Heavy Lifting, …ing, Digging, mov… pesticide, chemical weaponry



THE SLICK

Civilian Name:
Parker McKennan

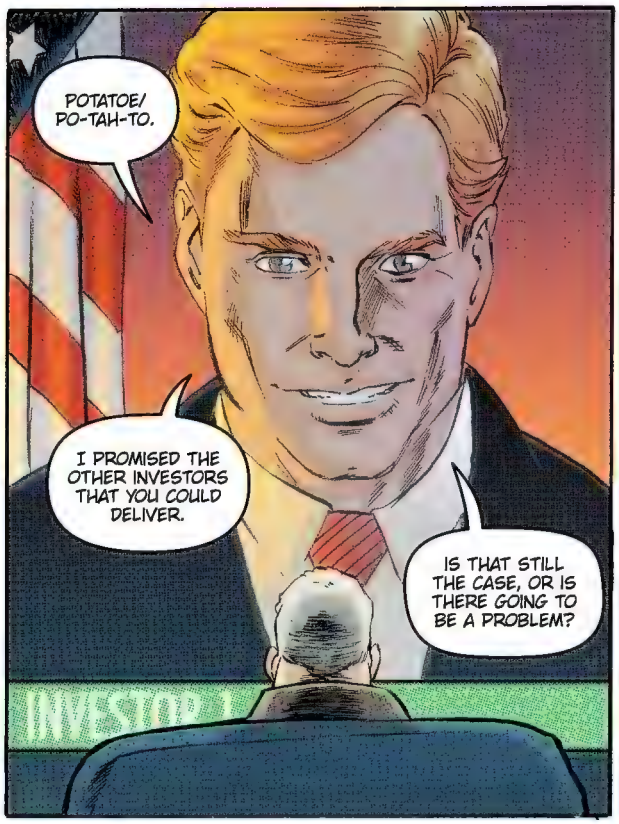
Powers:
Human petroleum generator. Super Slippery

Project Aphek Resource rating: **11**

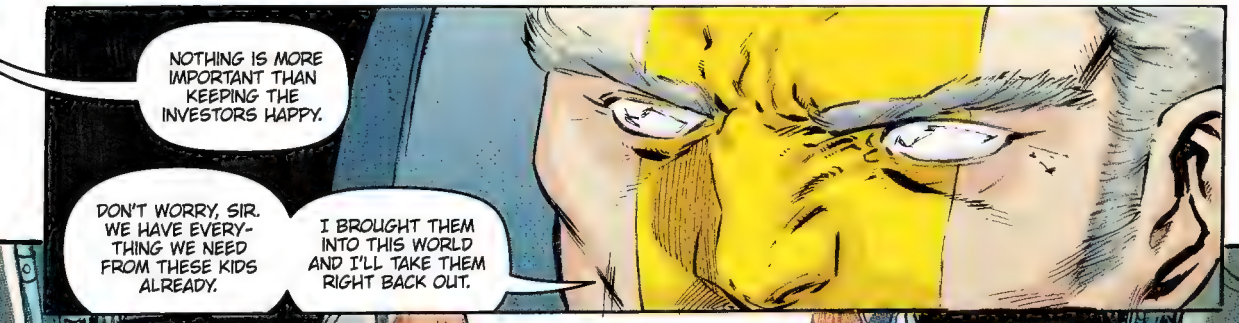
OIL!

RESPECTFULLY, SIR, THESE KIDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROES!

NOT MTV DEVIANTS!


POTATOE/ PO-TAH-TO.
I PROMISED THE OTHER INVESTORS THAT YOU COULD DELIVER.
IS THAT STILL THE CASE, OR IS THERE GOING TO BE A PROBLEM?

NO SIR, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.
I... I JUST THOUGHT, AS A FELLOW EVANGELICAL, YOU'D UNDERSTAND MY CONCERN.
YES, WELL, BEING POSSESSED AND REPLACED BY AN ALIEN DEMON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS* HAS A WAY OF RE-FOCUSING YOUR PRIORITIES.
*SEE WILDC.A.T.S #1-3!


NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KEEPING THE INVESTORS HAPPY.
DON'T WORRY, SIR. WE HAVE EVERY-THING WE NEED FROM THESE KIDS ALREADY.
I BROUGHT THEM INTO THIS WORLD AND I'LL TAKE THEM RIGHT BACK OUT.

"AND THEN WE'LL MAKE A MILLION MORE JUST LIKE THEM."
NEXT ISSUE: SHATTERED IMAGE

LOCALMAN

SKETCHBOOK

CROSSJACK

CAMO CRUSADER

CROSSJACK looks like a 90s superhero character because HE IS a 90s superhero character. Tim made him up at age 15 in 1992, as the star of a self-published comic called SKULEROS. His look changed only a little in the 30 years since that humble debut.

CAMO CRUSADER was among Tim's first ever superhero creations from childhood, inspired by the hunting magazines that littered his grandpa's home. A version of him appears in 'Lovebunny & Mr. Hell.'

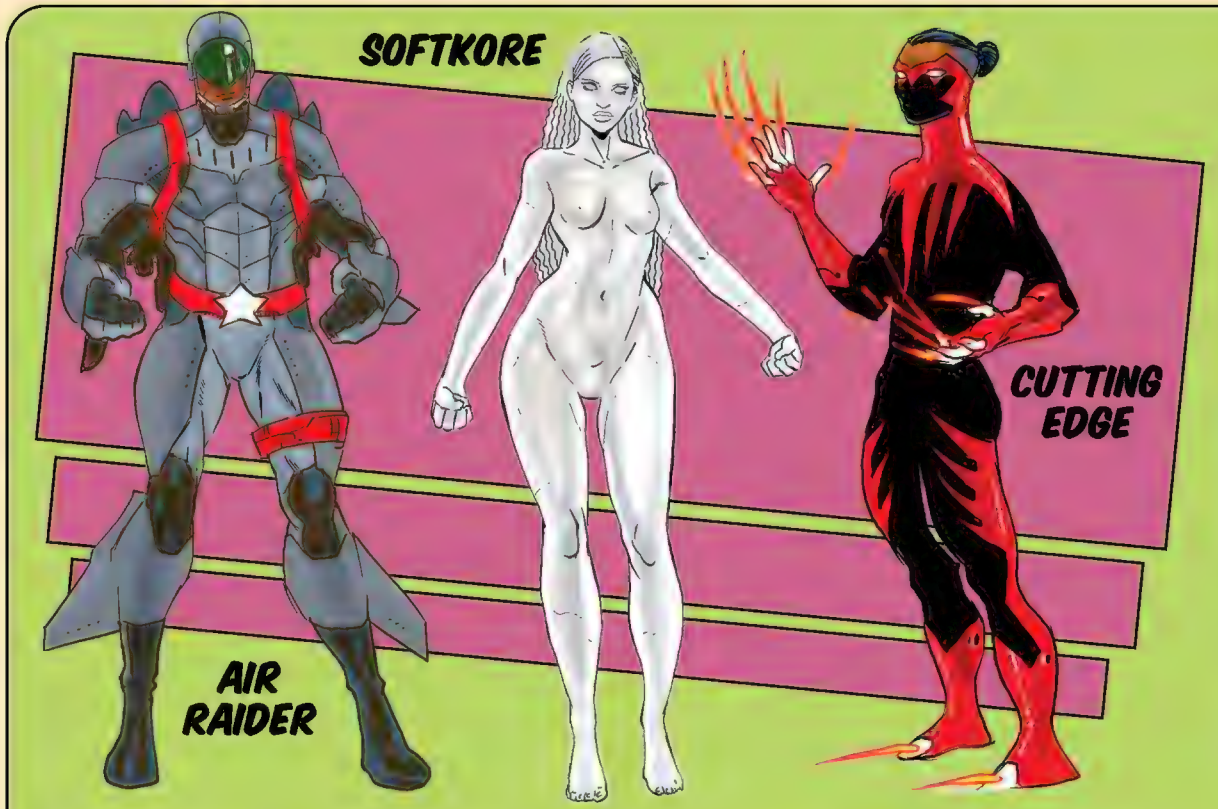
AUNTIE INGA

AUNTIE INGA as Tim originally conceived of her. Tony completely redesigned her to match her story.

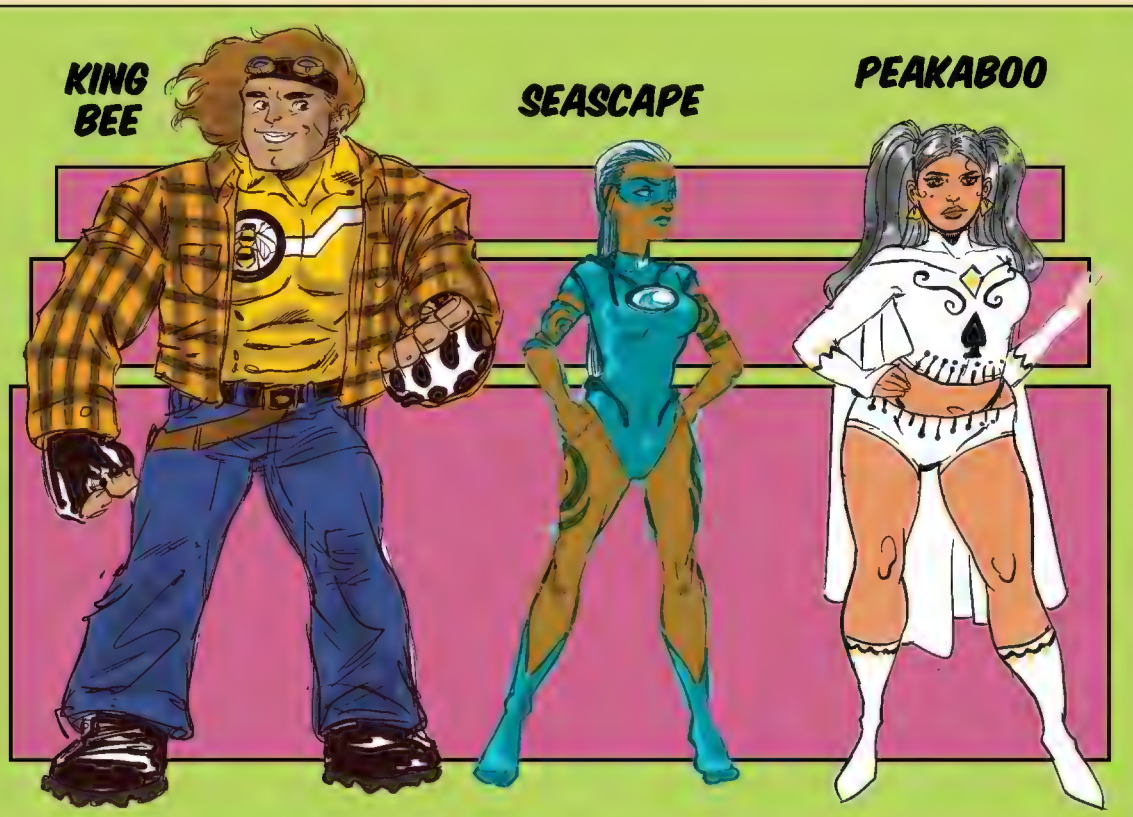
BIG ISLAND

BIG ISLAND. Tony added 'cyber' to this design. Tony adds cyber to any design he can. See also HODAG. This became an important plot point.

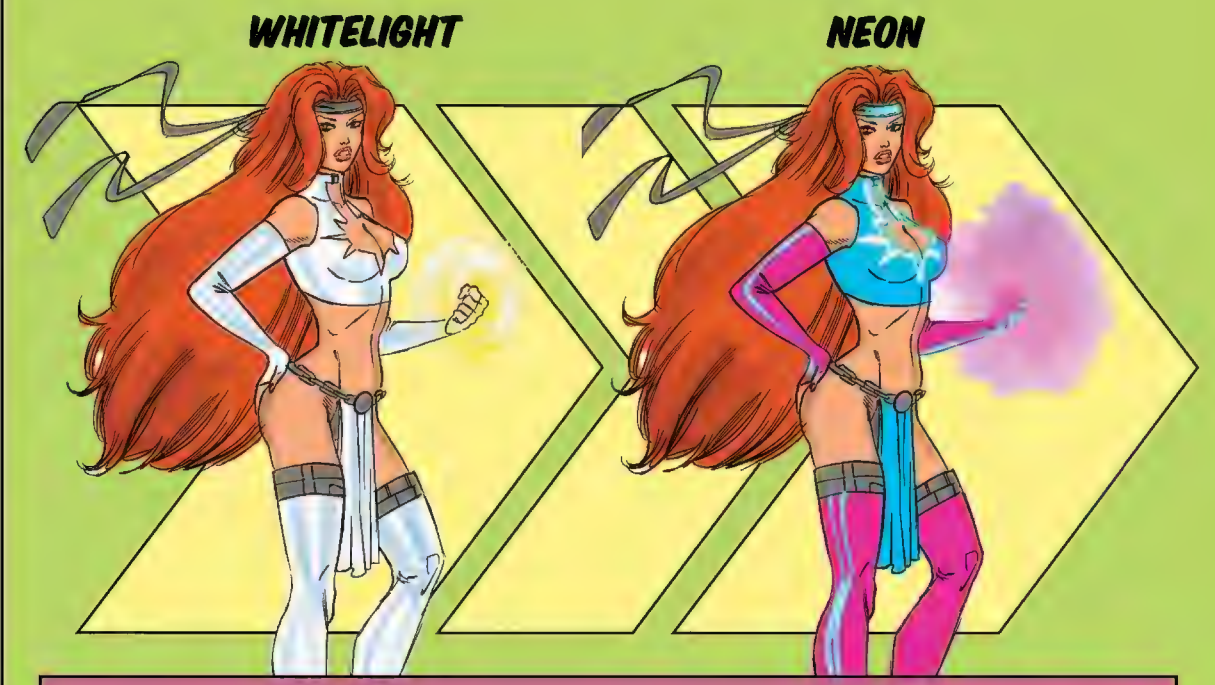
HODAG



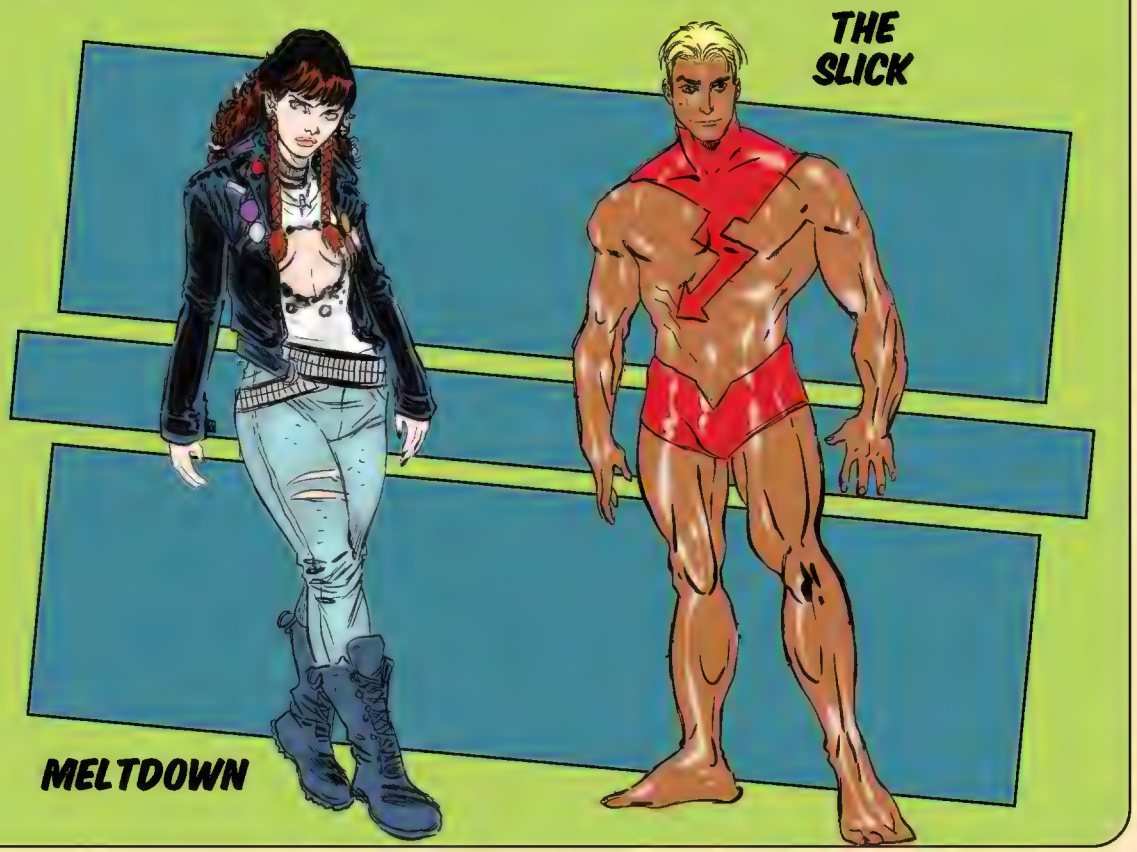
AIR RAIDER, SOFTKORE & CUTTING EDGE were created just for the series. Tim employed an "improv design" approach to them...one draft, and they're done. This helps capture the kind of "design it on the page" energy of early Image Comics.



FOURTH GEN is almost entirely composed of Tim and Tony's pre-professional character designs. KING BEE & SEASCAPE are from Tony's teenage comic book creations, while MELTDOWN & PEEKABOO are from Tim's (although their names were "La Fuega," and "Whiteout.") THE SLICK was created from scratch for this series.



NEON is based on a character Tim created in 1988 called WHITELIGHT. In fact, that name and original design were considered for this series, but deemed "not flashy enough." And thus Neon was born in all her bisexual lighting glory.



Cover Gallery

FLEECS · SEELEY · SIMPSON · SOBREIRO

image

LOCAL MAN

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"CROSSJACK NO MORE!"

LOCAL MAN

STRAY DOGS CREATOR TONY FLEECS TEAMS WITH REVIVAL'S TIM SEELEY FOR A SERIES THAT COMBINES RURAL CRIME NOIR AND SUPERHERO ACTION!

ONCE THE STAR RECRUIT OF THE MEDIA SENSATION SUPER-TEAM THIRD GEN, JACK XAVER HAD IT ALL. BUT WHEN CONTROVERSY SENDS CROSSJACK CRAWLING BACK TO HIS MOM AND DAD'S BASEMENT IN THE MIDWEST, JACK STRUGGLES TO FIT INTO A WORLD HE LEFT FAR BEHIND.

...AND THEN THE BODIES START PILING UP.

ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SERIES

"A THOUGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING SEND-UP TO ONE OF COMICS' WEIRDEST ERAS, AND IF YOU'RE NOT READING IT RIGHT NOW, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY MISSING OUT. THIS SERIES IS TRULY TERRIFIC ON EVERY LEVEL." – **COMICBOOK.COM**

"LOCAL MAN IS ONE OF THE BEST SUPERHERO BOOKS ON THE MARKET, HANDS DOWN. 10/10" – **COMIC-WATCH.COM**

"A LOVING MOCKERY, A THRILLING TRIBUTE, AN ECSTATIC EXCITING EXPLORATION OF 90S COMIC GREATNESS. FUN AND BRILLIANT."
– **TOM KING** (*MR. MIRACLE, SUPERGIRL*)

"ONE OF THE BEST NEW SERIES I'VE READ IN A LONG TIME. A DARKLY FUNNY BUT DEEPLY SINCERE SUPERHERO NOIR. DON'T MISS IT."
– **SCOTT SNYDER** (*BATMAN, DARK KNIGHTS: METAL*)

CRIME & MYSTERY | SUPERHEROES
RATED **M** | MATURE (AGES 18+)
COLLECTS **LOCAL MAN** #1-5

image

DR. VINK

WITH A VA-VA-VA

A DR. VINK FANCY HD RIP

- RIPPIN POORLY SINCE MAY 2022 -

EDITOR'S NOTE:

THIS FANCY HD RIP WON'T TRIGGER ANYONE'S PHOBIA OF SCARY AI

WORRY NOT! THOSE FRIGHTENING COMPUTERS LEFT THESE IMAGES UNTOUCHED

I CAN'T LOOK AT THE EYE ANY-MORE! HELP! AIEEEEE!
SEVERAL OF JOHNATHAN BARKLEY'S NEIGHBORS CLAIMED THAT AT EXACTLY 7:15 P.M. THEY HEARD A TERRIBLE SCREAM EMENATING FROM BARKLEY'S LIBRARY, BUT, OFCOURSE, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO HAD SCREAMED OR WHAT HAD CAUSED THE FRIGHTFUL OUTCRY.
HELLO, HOWARD!
JOHNATHAN! NO! NO! AAAAGH!
THE END
...NOW ALL IS PEACEFUL IN SPRINGFIELD... FOR THERE IS NO MORE GOSSIP... THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT THOU SHALT... HEAR NO EVIL... SEE NO EVIL... SPEAK NO EVIL!
The End

...AND I AM NOT A NUT BAG

DIGITAL COMICS PRESERVATION

RIPPING
SCANNING
ARCHIVING COMICS

WHY? — BECAUSE I'M THE DEVIL'S ALLY, THAT'S WHY! HE, AND THE REST OF THESE LITTLE MONSTERS ARE MY FRIENDS! YOU UNDERSTAND, FRIENO?
HE-HE-
HE

IF YOU LIKE IT
AND HAVE THE MEANS TO DO SO
PURCHASE A PHYSICAL COPY
HELP YOUR LOCAL COMIC BOOK SHOPS!

READ MORE COMICS